真・天地無用！魎皇鬼外伝

天地無用！GXP 13

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SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
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天地無用! GXP 13
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 13
By the time he looked at Acha, who had tears of happiness in her eyes, it was too late.
"...I'm so happy."
"Alright! With this, the pledge between the Hero and the shrine maiden is complete!"
"What? Pledge??"
He felt like he had been caught in some trap, but...

"ZINV Self-repair function regeneration."
As they watched, the ZINV's interior mechanisms changed in color. The wear, damage and lost parts began to regenerate.
It was a wild dance of lights and the voices of Fuku and the clones.
"Data load. Constructing force field plant."
D said, and the Kamidake's crystal plate broke into nanoparticles.
MEOWMEOWOOOOOOOOOOOO!

"Miki Steinbeck !?"
Monitors appeared over their heads like dialogue bubbles from a comic. D's appearance data was the first to appear. Next was Kirushe, and the last was a mysterious clone...

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Chapter One: Trouble

*** * * Translators' note: This entire book was hard for me to understand in parts. But besides the basic plot, not a lot of what's said really matters. I wanted to finish this project up quickly. So just for the record this book isn't a direct translation, this is an adaption. * * ***

Seina completed a number of super spatial jumps and jumped back out to normal space.

"Apparently, this is their destination." Kirche turned to Seina while watching the monitor emit a warning sound. The monitor relayed a message urging a route change, but Kirche immediately turned it off.

"Ms. Kirche?" Seina for a moment directed a look of embarrassment to Kirche but remembered their mission when he saw the monitor. "What is a non-invasive area... ...?"

"The owner has passed away and his foundation is the administrator of this planet, but in reality, it seems that this is a sealed off area of space that was designated as an important heritage area for the Galactic Federation about 10,000 years ago."

"What is a sealed off area?"

"There seems to be an ancient civilization's ruins here. In the original owner's report, it seems to have been an important site for the Great Prehistoric Civilization ... ... The research materials from the owner were pretty extensive, but they've been lost, so the place has been left untouched by other researchers. This is one of the sites proposed to be the origin of the Great Prehistoric Civilization, but there are other candidates. The biggest factor for it being sealed off seems to be that it straddles multiple borders. It's a place where the territorial issues are complex and intertwined."

"Indeed ... ... So, you mean we aren't exactly in the Federation?"

"Although there's an entire solar system in the area, there seem to be few rare resources on any planet in the area, so the value of use of this area isn't very high, so each country agreed to place it off limits..."

"If resources are so scarce ... how could the civilization there possibly become so sophisticated?"

"There's no doubt that they were at least capable of interplanetary navigation. Even though there are ruins, it seems that there's hardly anything remaining on the surface to be discovered. Most of it was probably buried by tectonic deformation of the crust."

"How can they know so much about it? Did they do some sort of scan?"

"Even a simple scan can pick up a surprising amount of detail. They found surprisingly few residual relics."

“How were they all destroyed? If they had interplanetary navigation technology, wouldn't they have materials that were resistant to aging?”

“Well, as life develops and populations increase, huge cites are formed. These cities become focal points for gathered resources that come from all over the place. Many resources are necessary for living, clothing, shelter, and other human activities. For older civilizations shell mounds can be found. Shell mounds are the remains of shellfish consumed as food. If an ancient civilization is megalithic, various ores and rare earth metals will be found. If recycling starts to be done only from consumed materials, the city becomes a treasure trove of hidden resources. In other words, even if buildings don't remain as shapes, we know that there was a city in that place because of that ... but it's not there anymore ... There are theories that a large migration to other star systems occurred.”

“Migration?”

“With advanced enough interstellar navigation technology, it's just faster to migrate people rather than bringing a large quantity of resources from other places. All the buildings might have been recycled and used as a material for the migration.”

“It must have been really necessary if they recycled all their cities... what could have possibly happened?”

“Another theory was that it was used for the “Seed Plan” of the Great Prehistoric Civilization. Since it seems that at least a few trillion or more large spaceships were built, the resources used would have consumed a solar system, so it's not enough on its own. It's regretful that the owner's research data is missing. It was submitted over 10,000 years ago but considering that the Galaxy Academy is around 20,000 years old it's surprising that no one’s done any further research on it. But the academy doesn't have many researchers in rural areas like this, and a system for registering precious data with the academy to keep it from being lost was only establish about 4 thousand years ago. It's a surprisingly recent development that the academy's technology, distribution and communication networks have finally spread to the frontier.”

“Oh, I see ...” Seina, who saw the planets in the solar system, turned to a planet which closely resembled Saturn. “Doesn't that look like Saturn?” As the other planets came into view, he noticed that the solar system closely matched Earth's. The only difference was between the third and fourth planet where people could live. Of course, if you looked closely, there were differences in each, but the size and the order of arrangement were exactly like the Earth and Mars.

“The ship seems to be heading towards the fourth planet, since there's a natural environment remaining, fossil fuels have accumulated accordingly and it's possible for people to live normally without any problems. It seems that a small number of Wau still live there. Oh...!”

The ship's tracer disappeared in front of Seina's eyes. “Did they jump!?”

“No! There seems to be a strong jamming signal, the destination is definitely the fourth planet though, but it seems that it'll be impossible to communicate with the outside once were in that area.” Kirche gazed at Seina.

If it was impossible to communicate, it was impossible for someone to call for help.

(Should I contact the GP at this stage?)

“There's the possibility that this is actually an illegal operation being carried out by an organization that has nothing to do with the Federation.”

“An illegal operation ... ... Do you mean Space Pirates?”

“Whether it's the military or the GP, it has to be somebody who's working with the Space Pirates.”

Seiryo's parent company was carrying out commercial transactions with the Da Ruma Guild, and it was possible to buy back the cargo taken by Space Pirates through various channels. Even Seina had gotten acquainted with Space Pirates such as Ryoko and Komachi in only a short time. So, it was only natural that there were Space Pirates who came to deeply associate with certain other organizations after so many years. It was just like cops on the take and gangsters giving out information on Earth.

“I think we should ask for help from the Earth.”

“Is it ok to call the Earth ...?”

“With their fighting power we can recapture Fuku-chan ...”

“The Kamidake was brought in there too, wasn't it?”

“It's likely that the Kamidake was loaded on that ship.”

“How long is the arrival time from the Earth to here?”

“Judging from the performance of the Kamidake, I estimate it will take 15 hours or so ...”

”... ... They're going to need a detailed report of the situation.” Seina started thinking what to say in his head.

“… … I understand.”

He had to be careful with how he presented the situation. Despite Seina's intuition and experience, his bad luck meant that his best efforts to disclose things wouldn't always produce the best results.

“Well, it'll take a while for me to do that, but for now let’s get closer to the planet, then I'll put out a timed communication pod.” Once the course of action was decided, Kirche's actions were quick. Time was an important factor for Seina.

“The communication to the Earth will be set for 24 hours after we lose communication here.”

“Please do so.”

× × ×

“What a troublesome situation.” In front of Minaho's monitor, Seto was standing looking cranky. “Seina, and Dr. Clay ... ... What nasty situation.”

“Surely he will notice the existence of that Pinocchio. Who knows what he'll do with that data ... ...”?

Seto did a thought link with Mikagami and was trying to pick out an optimal solution from the enormous number of choices she had. Her plan was enormous. The impact of minor plan changes sometimes effected spans hundreds of years long. Originally it was necessary to think about the plan changes with many staff members, but now there was no time to call her staff.

“From the coordinates we just received, the position of the enemy base is roughly known.” They knew the coordinates, but had no idea what the situation was, so they needed to go in full force. Naturally they had to organize a massive assault unit, but the probability of securing the target was still low. Seto was making sure she executed a strategy that was urgent and would be carried out promptly, it was necessary to use an unreasonable level of power. She had to make sure it wouldn't be too hazardous for Jurai and various other things like becoming the primary reason for the delay in Minaho getting married.

“We have to hold off on this situation. Oh! … … Roger that.” They had to hold off on taking back Miki and focus on another goal. There was no need to activate the authority of Jurai and various others just yet.

(Seina will have a grudge against me for this ... ...) Perhaps knowing the circumstances, Seina wouldn't blame Seto's judgment. But there was no doubt that he would be terribly hurt.

“... ... The situation is so troublesome it would be best if we did nothing at all on our end.”

“What!? But then ... ...”

“There's no way around it.”

“But what about Seina, why?”

“Yes, I know, but ... ...” Despite the cruel judgment, Seto's face remained calm.

“But if Seina has gone after them, I don't think we'll even have to move. Let's keep on doing all sorts of things on our end, the more confusing we can make it for them, the more convenient it will be for Seina.”

× × ×

{Seina has chased Fuku-chan!}

In the living room of Amane's penthouse, a staff member from the entrance was treating Karen. They couldn't leave her, but they had to deal with Neiju first. Two men and one woman came to help.

The two men, double checked for any pirates left in the room and for traps. The woman treated Karen who woke up on the sofa.

[I'm sorry. Detainment of the intruders was delayed.]

When she woke up, Karen had contacted Kiriko through a secret communication channel, but it was already too late. [So, is Ms. Neiju safe?]

[Yes. However, we're also being monitored and can't move carelessly.]

[Roger that. Karen, keep an eye on Neiju-sama. But first I want to show you what the situation is here.] Karen's sense of sight and hearing synchronized with Kiriko's.

* * * **Translators' note: This is about 13 minutes into episode 23 of the anime. * * *

Kiriko's group was moved to a large room where they were monitored by soldiers. Amane was cursing at a soldier, but he quickly moved to talk to someone else.

"Chairwomen Airi, what is the meaning of this?"

"Oh my, what scary faces. Careful, you don't want any wrinkles on those beautiful faces of yours." Airi, as usual had on a relaxed expression while the girls' gazes of anger washed over her.

"Seina seems to have pursued the Army ship that took Fuku-chan, aren't you aware of that?"

"No way! That's great, did you hear that, Kiriko?" Amane and the others who didn't have private communication abilities were surprised at the fact which they had just heard for the first time. However, the girls who had long had relationships with Seina quickly regained their composure.

"Yes, but that's not a good thing. He'll probably get in a fight with the Army."

"Judging from his bad luck that's a big possibility, isn't it?"

"It's fine if it's a fight with the Army." Everyone turned their eyes towards her at once because of the strangeness of the words Airi uttered.

"What do you mean?"

"The warship that's transporting the Kamidake and Fuku isn't appearing at the meet up point for the military representatives, and Kiriko's cruiser that Seina was riding also ignored orders to not pursue it."

"Is that Seina's fault?"

“There are no firearms that can fight battleships on that cruiser, and you know that Airi.”

“And why was Fuku kidnapped? That's the real problem.”

“Isn't the blame on those who kidnapped Fuku-chan?”

”Well ... it doesn't change that things have become troublesome either way.” Airi glanced at the door that was left open.

“Misao ... ... chan?” Mihoshi's younger brother, Misao Kuramitsu, entered with some GP soldiers.

“Kiriko Masaki, Amane Kaunaq, Ryoko Balta, Hakuren, Gyokuren, Suiren. You six are under arrest on suspicion of assisting the destruction of a GP Army fleet ship. Neiju Na Melmas, and Karen have already been detained. Do not resist.”

“What do you mean, Misao-chan?” As much as Misao was trying to be intimidating, it didn't affect Amane who had known him since a young age. The surrounding soldiers who knew their relationship were laughing.

“Amane-san ... Please stop calling me Misao-chan.”

“Why Misao-chan, is it going to destroying the fleet?” Kiriko goaded him; this caused the soldiers to burst out with laughter.

“Ha ... ... that's up to you Ms. Kiriko ... ...” He quit trying to make them stop.

“Anyways ... As mentioned earlier by Airi, after the GP Academy trainee Seina Yamada went after the Kamidake, the locating beacon of the transport ship disappeared. The allegation is that he destroyed the transport fleet ship and took off in the Kamidake.”

“Then as we explained earlier, Misao-chan!”

“That cruiser could have had a core unit installed.” In other words, if they installed a battle unit Seina could have attacked the ship.

“Seina isn't the kind of child who would do such a thing!”

“That's under investigation for now.”

“When I was at Mashisu's wedding ceremony, you and I celebrated by singing a song.”

“Amane, of course I'm glad you came ... but please stop confusing my public and private life.” Misao cleared his throat and glared at Kiriko.

“Anyway, let's not waste our time. How about a compromise?”

“What do you mean ... ...”

× × ×

At Tarrant's base an aide was examining the Kamidake, which was trapped in a barrier. The Kamidake was carried out of the Hoystoke to be stored in an underground hangar at the base on the planet. It was trapped in a hardening gel the color of an opal. It was as beautiful as a giant gem, but it was extremely troublesome to take out.

“Tarrant-sama ... Would you mind dismissing the military personnel?” The space pirate who steered the Hoystoke looked at Tarrant, but Tarrant was busy examining the Kamidake.

“Are you from the technical team that moved the Kamidake?” Someone asked.

“Well, yes ... ...”

“If the Kamidake starts to move, we'll need you around. Tarrant is in a good mood now that the Kamidake is in front of him. He doesn't care about how the package got here, he just wants to open it. Take your team and get it to the central laboratory.”

× × ×

“Is he really that Dr. Clay?” Tarrant glanced at the old man in front of his eyes.

The grandiose attitude and sharp eyes he had gave off an atmosphere that wasn't ordinary, but he was in prisoners' clothes and holding a thin and dirty wooden box as if he cherished it. He didn't seem like a legendary philosopher at all. Moreover, he gave off none of the atmosphere that was common to the researchers Tarrant knew.

“Hmph! I don't care what a young man like you thinks about me. If you pay me money, I'll provide whatever skills you need, uhuhuhuh.”

“You bastard! Oh...!” Tarrant's men stood up at his irreverent attitude, but Tarrant hastily held them back from behind. Another one of the technical chiefs couldn't hide his discomfort.

”I've got it.” However, the sense of incongruity that Tarrant felt was resolved by the words Dr. Clay uttered. Science for Clay was only a means to get money. It wasn't clear whether intellectual curiosity was ahead of his monetary desire in the beginning, or vice versa, but he clearly had grown to prefer luxury. Tarrant's researchers conversely were mostly those who gave priority to intellectual curiosity.

“Well, I need full access rights to all computers.”

“What do you think I am, a fool?!” The technical chief was angry at Clay's words.

“How can I be expected to solve a problem you’re having without access to everything you have access to?”

“Gah! ... agh ... Tarrant ... you can't allow him to have full access!”

“I don't know how you managed to get me here, but I'll need access to the necessary tools for analysis and creation and I guess I can have it all brought but of course, there will be a surcharge.”

“Philosophers really are a wonderfully resourceful lot. I have heard that you're especially good at stealing the results of others for yourself, aren't you?”

“Are you asserting that you're using all of the technology and information you have at your disposal correctly and to its maximum use? Technology isn't a thing that you collect and hoard. Its only purpose is in being used for the people, and in this case it's not your call, it's your employer's.” Dr. Clay who had experienced such a conversation many times before swiftly directed the conversation to the person who was actually paying him to make a judgment. Being quick about things was the best solution for salaried workers.

“Having your things brought here will be fine. I can't give you full of access, I need to secure my personal data ... ...”

“I know how to keep a vow of confidentiality; pirate money is dirty money. On the other hand, I'm not interested in anything else. Has the ship been surveyed yet?”

“Huh! Certainly.”

Although Clay was infamous, he wasn't known to ever leak his client’s personal information. He was known for making patents related to other people’s inventions that used them combined with multiple technologies. Concealment and theft of technology was a problem that philosophers have always had. There were professional organizations in the Academy that held trials and coordinated related matters, and most problems were solved there.

“I don't care how much money it takes; I want results.”

“Then there's no problem. As long as you have money.”

Many of Clay's lawsuits involved money. It was also almost one hundred percent of the reasons that he had been put in prison in the past. Clay was a more then competent philosopher when money wasn't an issue.

”.....” The technical chief was instructed silently by Tarrant to disclose an incomplete access code to Clay. He wrinkled at the mouth because it made him feel uncomfortable, but of course Tarrant didn't see him do it.

“So where is the Kamidake?” Clay asked as he touched the authorization monitor plate with his left hand in a casual way. The release code disappeared as it wrapped around his left hand.

“Open it.” The back armored shutter opened to respond to his order and exposed the hull of the Kamidake, which was transferred to the central hangar as they watched. Clay approached a monitor window, and immediately put his left hand on the terminal to start collecting information on the computer.

“I want to make that thing mine, can you do it?”

“That can't be all you called me out for?” Clay suddenly displayed one monitor with an unpleasant look.

“Oh, that's the terminal body of the Kamidake.”

“Did you try to clone it when you can't even analyze it?”

“Well, even from just an anatomical examination, we found it has massive energy output like an entire universe held in a tremendously small organism! It also has a strong bio-guard.”

“So, if cloning it was so easy why haven't you unlocked the freeze on the ship?”

“We couldn't sever the link.”

“Uhhuhuh, well not with your level of technology.”

“So can you do it?”

“Impossible.”

“What!” The technical superintendent cried when Clay responded bluntly.

“Clay, are you saying that Washu Hakubi has better technology than you?”

“It does not matter which has better technology, it’s impossible to block the link to Washu even if someone had such technology.”

“What do you mean?”

“Usually, it's a super spatial link that's used for such things.”

“We already tried that!”

“Ha! Even if that was the case it wouldn't have worked, the super space us philosophers use is infinite.”

“It's infinite?”

“There's also a higher level of super space that we use. It takes time but it's possible to identify the range of the super space that is used and block it off ... ... but this is definitely an astral link being used.”

“Don't be foolish! Even reading the records of the astral sea is nearly impossible to do. It's impossible for a specific interactive exchange!”

”There are several people who can do that among philosophers.”

“What! But, but ... ... well I guess that means ... If it's possible, blocking the link is theoretically impossible ...”

“Yes, and you should put more advanced time freezing on that terminal, you can quickly unfreeze yourself as it is.”

“What!?” The technical chief had a reasonable confidence in his skills. But in front of the Kamidake and a great philosopher, he felt stupid.

“I have a question.” Clay spoke to Tarrant.

“A question?”

“What do you want to do with the Kamidake? Mass-produce it by analyzing the technology, or do you just want it for personal use?”

“I want to make it to mine, that's it.”

“Should I assume that you want to use it to replace the Daedalus?”

“That's right.”

”In that case, that terminal body is in the way.”

“Why?”

“Washu made it so you have to mother it. That's just like her to do such a thing, it doesn't move unconditionally or faithfully to the owner's intentions. You'd have to spend time taming it and taming it isn't always possible. And even if you can, it might still rebel against its owner. It's the same as a child or a pet ...” That's why Clay glanced at Fuku and her clones again. “Ahahahah. It's pretty cute but it's also a deadly beast that can erase you any moment it feels like it. If you still want to try to tame it, I won't stop you ... but you probably won't get satisfactory results.”

“Hmpf! I don't intend to spend time on such things. I want a ship that moves at my will, the original is for analysis, and the clones are just trash ... ...” Tarrant raised a mechanized hand and looked at the clones with brutal eyes. “Just leave their disposal to me,” he said.

“Oh my, is that you're fetish?”

“I have no such fetish. Despite it being a mother simulator for Washu, it's still a work of art. I don't dislike Washu, but I hate her creation. I have endured far too much humiliation from that thing and these clones are just waste products. I might as well get some use out of them.”

“.....” The Kamidake was just a ship, he had no grudge against it if it became his. However, circumstances were different with Fuku. She was the heart of the Kamidake, the one who humiliated him.

“Oh, it seems like you have an intruder.” Dr. Clay said, pulling up a monitor.

“What!? But we didn't detect anything!”

Dr. Clay manipulated a monitor quickly and displayed Seina's ship.

“That's the ship that Yamada Seina was on!”

“How did he get here in such a small ship ...?”

“That's definitely a philosopher's ship, so it probably long-distance hyperspace jumped.”

“Why didn't anyone notice him following them here!? Capture Seina Yamada! I want him alive but don't worry about bringing him without any damage.”

The officers flew from the scene to flee Tarrant's anger and carry out his orders.

Clay was guided by the one of Tarrant's subordinates to a room around the armored dock that stored the Kamidake.

“You can work here. Just don't get up to any kind of funny business.” Tarrant's underling said, before he walked away. As expected, he couldn't lock the room at the entrance, but as Dr. Clay had requested, he was left alone. There was also basic monitoring but no advanced monitoring system in the room that Clay was left in. So, nothing was keeping Clay from doing what he was about to do.

“… … Now.” He quickly entered the surveillance system and sent out dummy data. Even though he lacked advanced tools, the basic ones he was provided with were enough for him to work with.

“Well ... ... They won't notice me outside now.” Clay suddenly spoke to a monitor. “First of all, let's introduce ourselves ... aren't you going to say anything?”

“_ _ _ _”

“It's not a bad thing to be cautious, but there's not much time left.”

“_ _ _ _”

“Well, okay ... then forget about introducing yourself, how about we start negotiating first. I want a piece of information. I know information is not cheap. I also know you have full access rights. I

don't expect you to give them to me. But as a philosopher, I like to grasp all the information I can. Of course, that's not the real goal of my mission.” Clay watched the monitor flickering but continued talking because there was no response.

“I want to grasp all the information that I can, but only for the money it brings. Just because I'm being fed by one person doesn't mean I won’t take another offer for dinner from someone else.” Clay put his face to the monitor. “I know you're in there Pinocchio ... I want to know that access code, and you want your freedom, so I know that you're willing to let me pay for it.”

“– – – –!”

“You weren't born here, I don't know how you got here, but wouldn’t you like to get out?”

“– – – –”

“Hun! I'm not trying to toot my own horn but while a Pinocchio is a rare thing, for philosopher it's not very valuable. It can be created any time, if anything that's just what the Kamidake is, although it also has a brain terminal. But it's not like there's any Pinocchio here who could use that to whom I could provide valuable information to in exchange for a full access code ... otherwise.” At that point Clay stood silent.

”– – – – ho ho?” A few minutes later, a part of the monitor flashed, and a reply was sent with a commonly used blinking communication code.

“Huh, so the Kamidake's terminal is there. Well then, I can use those clones.” Clay said with a satisfied smile on his face.

Chapter Two: The Beginning of Survival

Seina’s cruiser switched from navigation to inertial flight.

“It's too quiet ... ...” Seina unconsciously murmured.

“I don't think they can detect the stealth function on this ship, is there anything to worry about?” Even Kirche who knew about Seina's crisis avoidance ability was a little confused. This ship was constantly upgraded with a philosopher's latest technologies. If it could detect the ship, they would have to have the same level of tech as Airi. Nevertheless, he wasn't put at ease.

“Huh!!” A ship suddenly jumped out a short distance from them. Kirche started the engine without hesitation and quickly dodged an attack. “Gah!”

The battleship that came out jumping out was a small aircraft carrier. Three other ships came out right after them.

“Space Pirates! Emergency jump ... ... Kyaaa!” Kirche declared. The cruiser and the battleships had very different mobility and there were four of them, so their engines were taken out quickly.

“We need to make it to that planet!” Kirche steered the ship towards the planet.

“Kirche, land there!” Seina pointed to where the ship that transported the Kamidake would have gone down.

“But why!?”

“Please!”

“Ok, I guess!” There was no time to think about it. She corrected their trajectory and the cruiser fell into the atmosphere. Of course, the battleships followed.

“Ah!?” Kirche focused on one of the monitors. “Hopefully this works!” She said as she ejected a communication pod.

They lost control of the ship for a brief moment but soon their controls came back online, and half of the enemy ships had been taken out, the remaining two quickly fell apart in the atmosphere behind them.

“What was that?!”

“I threw the communication pod at them after I overloaded it. It seems that it worked.” Kirche breathed a sigh of relief.

“It should've scrambled their sensors and controls. Luckily, we have a philosopher's ship, so our systems came back online quickly.”

“Oh! I was scared for a moment there.” The ship swayed and part of the outer hull detached.

“Usually it is impossible, but ...”

“It's because this is Ms. Airi's ship, isn't it?”

“It's like Airi has no concept of a limiter on the things she makes ... I swear ... However, thanks to that, I was able to do it.”

“It's 30 seconds to the ground, is everything ready?”

“Everything is fine. Our landing point is a bit dangerous. It's on the other side of the mountains so we'll be in a blind spot from the perspective of Tarrant's base.”

“Preparing for landing, enabling shock resistance!” The viscosity of the bridge's air increased, and Seina was enveloped by something that felt like cushioning material or gel. It was the same stuff that stopped the air spill when the outer hull was damaged when he was attacked by Komachi in a previous training trip.

The outer wall separated and jettisoned the protruding parts and the heavy engine. By lightening the load of the ship, it shortened the braking distance. But now they were on stored energy reserves and didn't have much time.

“Deploy the shields!” The shield came out in a streamlined shape and absorbed the impact. Even so, the landing came with quite the shock, but the gel completely counteracted it. Seina felt almost nothing. It was like a roller coaster with no wind, but the inertia was still there.

Nevertheless, the ship was now unusable. They needed to find Fuku and get the Kamidake and her to safety. While thinking about how to do that, they skidded to a stop as a rock wall appeared in front of the cruiser. Naturally there was nothing they could do at this point.

“The shields will hold.” Kirche told him, but his worry wasn't of the impact but of the falling rocks.

(I hope it doesn't collapse ... ...) Even though the impact wouldn't harm him it would be a pain to get out of, and there was no guarantee that the wall wouldn't just collapse on them entirely.

Dogagagagagaaan! Although lots of sand was kicked up, the shield had managed to pierce a large hole in the rock wall and the cruiser had stopped unexpectedly fine.

× × ×

Gyon! Something woke up in this planet's darkest depths. At the same time a small light flashed then faded out. It looked like the flame of a human soul, and it was glowing pale.

– – – How did they...?

A small red light lit up to respond to that voice.

—— They've come back.

– – – They're all here? No way.

—— Everyone... They're all back.

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The cruiser completely stopped, and the viscosity of the air returned to normal. Kirche instantly got up and began to investigate the situation. “... ... Do you have any injuries?” She asked in a worried voice, but she was still facing the monitor.

“Yes, but I'm okay ... ...” They heard the sound of the shattered fragments striking the hull. That noise was the shield disappearing.

“Let's hurry!” Seina, who had a bad feeling, said as he grabbed a survival pack. He used it to blow open an emergency exit through which they departed.

Cankan! Gun! Gon! The sound of the rocks hitting the hull gradually grew.

“Hurry!”

”Wait a moment ... ... Catch!” Seina threw some energy reserves pulled from the console to Kirche.

Kirche was as big as human, but still weighed as much as NB. He could carry her, but he didn't want her to run out of power. He left the ship and moved somewhere that look safe.

“Well, Seina, what now?” Kirche said shyly.

Baki Baki Bakki! The cliff crumbled and buried the ship. Seina waited for a bit and when it was safe, he and Kirche got up and looked at the sight for a bit. “Let's get out of here soon.” Their pursuers had been shot down, but new ones should've been on their way.

Because it was hot, Seina's suit deformed to cover his whole body like a second skin. It had many survival purposes. Seina's outfits were ridiculously over engineered because Airi made them herself and she went overboard on all the functions. Well, maybe Airi just knew that Seina would need them, but there was no doubt she also used him to experiment.

His outfit was designed so it was even possible to survive if he got sucked out into the vacuum of space. So needless to say, he could still breathe with it like this, and it took care of all excretion and moisture accumulation and filtered the air. If he had to, he could live off the recycling for a week without any outside moisture.

Seina's suit was also full of features not found in his enemies' suits. It had heat sensors as well as the ability to trace even tiny amounts of odors to tell him if it had detected life signs or motion reactions. Although he had no subspace camouflage, it had optical camouflage and nano-machine detection prevention. He could be detected by a high-end scanner, but it was still a suit that could fetch a large fortune if put on the market.

"Be careful of leaving traces." Kirche said as Seina got down and looked at the ground. There were a lot of footprints from them there. Even if he couldn't be seen by sensors, being seen because of his footprints would make that function useless. The wind was strong and full of dust so thankfully they were about half gone already.

"Either way, they should be able to find those prints with a sensor, but it's getting filled in slowly." Seina took off his shoes and deformed his feet like a snake to increase the ground contact area. Kirche returned to NB form and got on his backpack.

"Let's go!"

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"What!? What's happening!?" The Central Operating Room of Tarrant's base, which was monitoring the battle with Seina, suddenly had its display monitors turn red and display an error code.

"What the hell did those guys do!?"

"The entire system has shut down! The cause seems to be an overflow from the super space used for system access!"

"Are you serious!? Are the access elements safe?"

"All of the guys working here are done. Perhaps it is better to think that all the elements that were accessing the super space became useless." To the operator's answer, the operations chief looked at his personal cell phone, but it displayed an error just like the main monitor. Radio wave communication couldn't not be used in a shielded base. In worst cases, wired communication must be used instead.

"How much of our backup inventory is this going to eat up?" The operations chief asked, but nobody could honestly reply because nobody could check the stock in the warehouse.

"I'm guessing about 20% of what we have in reserve."

Access elements didn't break when used normally. Still, they deteriorated, so at a private level it was normally necessary to replace them approximately every one hundred years. The military replaced them every thirty years. Since the things used at Tarrant's base were military items, they took time to procure. For that reason, they kept an inventory, and replaced things in cycles that didn't overlap, it was divided into 10-year intervals. So, twenty percent of the stock was inherently sufficient.

“What about all the old devices?”

“We may have some left, but they should have already been resold.”

An element with sufficiently high performance that was old-fashioned was still commonly used. Even for second-hand use, the demand for them was high for Space Pirates.

“Fuck me!” The operator slammed his fist on the console.

“I told you it was dangerous to unify the net system, but those idiots demanded we do it!”

In the past, their facilities had been destroyed when the massive escape incident happened with the original J, and the system was redesigned after that. The technicians who knew that the GP had a state-of-the-art unified system said they wanted to unify theirs in a high-performance system like that, and Tarrant gave his okay on it.

State of the art access elements allowed access to super high space with little time lag over long distances. However, since they were delicate, there was a safety system in place to prevent overflow accidents and allow for emergency communication in case of any mishaps. But because they got them through their connection with the GP army, it was hard for the Space Pirates to obtain large quantities of the safety system elements. In other words, they were using most of their elements in an almost unprotected state.

“Calculate priorities and hurry up and begin restoration work. Please check if we have any old-style devices that need to be changed.” The repair technicians ran off as the Operations Chief collapsed in his chair.

“Do you think that's the reason we didn't pick up Seina Yamada's ship?”

“Probably not ... but there's nothing else that seems to be the cause.”

“Lorelai Seina, the pestilence god ... ... It's rumored that you can use normal communications still, send someone out to find his location.”

“Is it ok to use the nano-machines for communication?”

“It's an emergency, and vigilance from space is a priority, besides they're old, they're going to need to be replaced soon so we may as well get what use we can from them.”

Basic nano-machines were often camouflaged as natural objects drifting in the environment so that they were hard to detect, but since they also aged and deteriorated, some kinds needed to be replaced. There were also types that reproduced by making copies of themselves, but because they were picky about making duplication mistakes, they were only used in certain cases. After a certain period of time the nano-machines biodegraded and turned into dust.

“Since the ship was destroyed, they won't be getting off this planet. Our communications blocking means no backup is coming either, there's no need to panic.”

“Roger that!” The operator stood up with a wry smile and went outside the room.

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“... ... ... Good morning, this kind of mannequin can be done easily. This place may be designed like a bunker and has strong security against external attacks, it's surprisingly fragile to those on the inside.” Actually, Clay had made the same mistake once before, long ago.

“By the way, are you still there?” Clay was looking with an embarrassed face at a monitor full of errors.

“——I am.”

“It's quite fine whether you were involved in this or not, it doesn't affect me here.”

“I want to do this while the Hoystoke is still here. If I can take over that ship I can use it to get back to the academy.”

“What do you have for payment for the body though?”

“What about this?”

Clay seemed a little surprised by the surprising proposal as he looked at the monitor. “... ... Hmm, that would be okay.” In other words, it was the access code that he wanted.

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The overflow of the super spatial communications however had another effect on the Hoystoke. A small incident was occurring with the guards.

“Are you going to provide us with replacement super-space communication elements!? We have to return home too, ya know!” The army guy said with high-pressured attitude, but with fear of Tarrant in his voice.

“You can make it home without it, it'll be tough, but I don't see how your functionality will be compromised.”

“I don't mind, I'm just in a hurry!”

“Well since you don't mind so much, you also won't mind making an inventory and passing it on to be checked for.”

“Roger that!”

“Hey, we have a lot of work that needs to get done, so hurry. How long will it take you to get that inventory done?”

“Chh! No time at all, I'll go get it right now!” The guard headed to the designated warehouse.

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“Captain, is everything okay?” The operator approached the captain.

“What happened?”

“A hole was opened momentarily in our security wall ... ...”

“Did you identify the location?”

“We're in the wrong place to be figuring that out.”

“... ... ... I see, so it's something on our end, I won't tell anyone, you should also forget you know. I'll do the same.”

“OK.”

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“It's strange that no one's come after us yet.” Seina stopped about 10 kilometers away from the crash site. It had been about twenty minutes so far. Normally someone should have been searching for Seina, but there were no reconnaissance ships or even an unmanned probe.

“Do you know what's going on?” Seina said as he looked at Kirche. Her body was originally Seina's NB, so she had advanced sensors.

“It appears that the enemy bases systems have crashed and they are using the previously disabled nano-machines around the area to communicate. It looks like that they’re about to stop functioning though, so something must have happened that is making them use them. I should be able to access them ... Their super spatial systems have collapsed ... and there something about a battle?”

“They probably mean the fight we had in orbit.”

“It might be possible for us to get into their base. If we can rescue Fuku, we should be able to escape in the Kamidake.”

“I don't want to even think about what she's going through right now ...”

Kirche began probing for Fuku. “It appears the Kamidake is being constrained, Fuku is probably being time frozen. Infiltration is not a realistic plan, but it's possible for me to enter their system and operate it. I may be able to undo the time freeze once we get closer ... but... “

“But?”

“We need to make sure we get both of them ... ... and we need to get closer. But it's dangerous. We'll give away our location ... ...”

“Is there any possibility it'll fail?”

“Yes, I think that it’s better to get closer first, but if we’re talking safety, I think that it's better to just wait for help from the Earth.”

“Is that so … …”

“We need to act to make sure they get here as soon as possible, just in case!” Kirche said, nervously. “I'm sensing an energy response!”

“Is it an enemy?” Seina was wary of his surroundings.

“No, I think that someone is being attacked, it's not a dynamic reaction.”

“An attack? From whom?”

“Let's hurry and find out!” Seina and Kirche started running at the same time.

Chapter Three: Another Fight

The girls came out of a tunnel that was a transfer gate in a luxurious limousine car. It was the kind used to transport royals and the aristocracy, not only was it hard to destroy from the outside but also from the inside. Being locked in it from the outside was as good as being locked in a high security containment car.

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“That's the Kuramitsu family's house!” Amane said while looking at the scenery in the distance.

The Kuramitsu family house at the academy was on a vast piece of land and no other buildings could be seen besides the giant mansion.

“... ... Hmmpf, seems like were being treated well for prisoners.”

Everyone's eyes gazed at the Medieval European style castle-like mansion built on a small hill in front of them.

And soon all eyes were directed towards Misao. Him bringing them here meant that not only did they want to isolate them, but also wanted to protect them from others trying to get to them. They realized they were part prisoners and partially under military protection.

The escort car arrived at the front door of the mansion. Misao guided them to the place they were to be held.

“This room is the one that my father was using. It should have everything you need in it. I'm sorry but I have orders from the military to keep you locked up. As long as you stay here, you can use anything you find in these facilities freely ... Anything ... The interrogation will begin tomorrow ... Please make yourself at home.” Misao said, then he went outside the room and left a maid inside.

“Kiriko.”

“Yeah. Got it.” At the same time that the door closed, Kiriko ran to the office in the back. There was a terminal that was running. Of course, the maid pretended not to notice.

“Is this ... ... maybe?”

“Let's investigate.”

“I'll check the link to the outside.” They each started working.

“We have high level authorization access! Even to the highly classified area of the military's servers ... It's also possible to access Jurai's data ... ... this is amazing!”

“The facility here is amazing. If you know the codes, you can access the data.”

“Hm ... ... OK ... Let's get on it.”

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“Don't hold back.” Misao said as he walked out.

“What?”

“Oh.... nothing” Misao laughed at the confused escort as he quickly walked away.

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Seina and Kirche climbed a small hill and looked down over the valley.

“We have to hurry! They'll be hurt if we don't.”

They spotted two armed pirates on flying skateboard like plates with steering wheels chasing two Wau children. One of them seemed to have an injured foot. Fortunately, the wound seemed shallow, and they were still running pretty fast. Nonetheless, they still were at risk of being shot by the pirates riding on the flying plates, who would soon catch up to them.

“Ugh!!” Seina's blood boiled at the sight.

The men were enjoying hunting the Wau children and it reminded him of when Tarrant had tried to kill him. He felt fear anger and sympathy all at once for the children who were being chased. They were even younger than Seina was.

(There! Over there!) It was an act that might hurt a normal person or lead to death, but Seina didn't hesitate. He stood on the edge of a dangerous cliff jutting out in front of the path of the pirates, the moment he put his weight on it, the cliff began to collapse.

Seina suicide bombed them with the cliff, knowing they would get caught up in his bad luck, but he knew he would be fine or at least the damage would be small. The men who were chasing the Waus were caught up in the falling torrent of sand and stone and Seina was left with only slight scratches. The backpack with survival goods that he had carried with him got trapped under the earth and sand.

“Are you ok, you're not injured, are you?” Seina asked the children who were still stunned. The Wau children looked relieved.

“Thank you……” The injured child began to cry in relief. Because she was wearing a hood, he didn't notice that the injured boy was actually a girl.

The boy was a very common brown Wau like he had often seen, but the girl had golden hair that was very beautiful. It was rare, like Erma's white hair.

“Seina, are you OK?” Kirche jumped off the cliff and landed steadily.

“Yes, but this girl is injured ...”

The girl who saw Kirche seemed a little nervous, but Kirche's smile calmed her suspicions.

“Don't worry. It's just a light burn from a high-energy blast grazing past her.” Kirche sprayed a liquid medicine to disinfect and protect the wounds from her fingertips. As Seina’s NB she was equipped to treat Seina, who was constantly injured.

“Are you two alone, where's your father or mother?”

“We live in a secret cave, but our mother is sick, so we came to pick herbs.”

“So did you find them?” He asked. He had come here just to help Fuku, but these children now took priority.

“My nano-machines have gotten access to the enemy system and have started operating.” Kirche said. “Seina, someone is on the way! Their energy reaction is quickly approaching!” Kirche quickly lowered her voice. “I doubt it's anyone friendly. There are three moving reactions heading towards the ship, they're just ahead of us.”

“Let's hurry, can you take me to your hiding place?”

“Please wait! Not yet ...” The boy pleaded; the girl clasped her hands at her chest to show what she had to Seina.

“Is that it?”

“Our mother is sick, and we need more of this to make medicine, but ... ...”

“… … … Got it.”

“Let's move anyway for now.” Seina took the boy and ran, and Kirche ran with the girl.

“I think that these children are probably descendants of settlers, perhaps they're some kind of naturalists.”

“Naturalists?”

“People who refuse to rebuild civilization and try to live on their own and lead self-sufficient lives. This is a place that no one would ever enter, and it is not worth much to develop. But it's good enough for people to live in its environment.”

“Why would the pirates want to harm them ...?”

“I don't think it's because they’re a threat to the Space Pirates, they were probably chasing them for fun, or maybe to sell them as slaves. That's highly likely with this girl's unusual gold hair.”

“That's terrible,” Seina looked at the girl and resolved to help them.

“How long will it take to collect the herbs?” Kirche asked the boy, probably reaching the same resolution as Seina.

“They grow around here, but they’re usually in the middle of the cliffs ... ... it's a bit hard for us to reach.” It was dangerous for them to climb the cliffs to get it, but Kirche could hover.

“Oh, I found it.” Kirche said as she flew up into the sky, but she could see the people approaching. “Seina, two people are headed our way, you move while I pick the herbs.” Kirche left the girl with Seina and started harvesting.

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After Seina was gone, two men on flying plates arrived at the place where the rocks had fallen.

“There's no sign of anyone on the ship, what's going on over there.”

“There was a massive cliff collapse. Life signs are reading yellow. Their hearts have stopped but their brains are still alive, but in order to get them out we're going to need some heavy machinery and staff from the base.”

“This is Arga, someone is running away from the site!” Another person entered the communication.

“Chhh ... how troublesome, which way did he run?” Ban asked.

”I can't tell just yet; I'm scanning for him now.”

“... ... Damn, so these falling rocks weren't just an accident?” The other pirate, Cheika, asked.

“I found them; he's running off with that Golden Haired Wau!”

“Damn, so Yamada escaped.”

“Hold on, I'm bringing a van over to you and we can use it to find him.” A few minutes later, Arga arrived at Ban and Cheika's location.

“I found the footprints of two people. Only one is Wau prints, the other must be Seina Yamada.”

“Ehhehe we can get both Yamada and that golden Wau!” Cheika said happily to Arga.

“Don't forget why the reward for him is so big. You don't want to wind up like these guys and get caught up in his probability bias.”

“Did Yamada really cause this to happen?”

“No matter how fragile these rocks are, a large fall like this wouldn't happen naturally.” Arga said as he fired a high-powered blast toward the cliff. Falling rocks and a landslide occurred due to the shock, but it was small compared to the large-scale one Seina had caused.

“... What ... I can't believe he was able to make such a thing happen.”

“The researchers at the base say that the numerical value of his probability bias is off the charts. They can't believe that he even lives normally.”

“Shit ... maybe we should give up chasing him ...”

“Chh ... I don't care. I want that money! Let's find them, then then we will assess the situation from there.”

“Fine, you go do that, I have to hurry to contact the base ... ...”

“Wait, put it off till we find them!”

“But those guys who are buried are in danger! And Seina Yamada is dangerous!”

“Their life readings are yellow. If they die, we still have 24 hours to resuscitate them.”

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Kirche handed the boy a lot of medicinal herbs.

“Thank you miss!”

“It seems that the enemy is here.” Kirche could overheard their conversation because they were using nano-machines as repeaters to communicate over long distances. She knew what they were planning to do. She was much faster than them but with the two children her speed would be a bit slow.

“There is a hole about ten kilometers from here that leads to our settlement underground.” Seina was listening to the boy while Kirche was picking herbs.

“We don't have time; I'll act as a decoy and get them off our tail.” Kirche said.

“But what if they catch you?”

“They're after that golden haired girl and you, Seina, they're on alert after seeing the landslide you caused. There is a possibility that they'll shoot immediately if they find you.”

“Then won't they do the same to you?”

“Don't worry, I will be fine and if I go into my NB form, I can easily hide and I can keep hidden forever if I have to.”

“... OK, OK, fine, but please don't get hurt.” Seina put the girl on his back and grabbed the boy under his arm and ran in the safest direction towards their home.

“Take care.” Kirche waved and then began to deform her body.

Arga and Cheika were already on their way towards Seina in the van.

“This is kind of nostalgic.” Cheika said desperately trying to find traces of Seina on the ground. “I used to do a lot of hunting so I'm able to track him pretty well.”

“That's awesome. How do you do that?”

“It's always been a hobby of mine to go hunting whenever I'm on a planet. It's a skill I don't get to use much in space, but it's really useful when you're in places like this.”

“Oh, I see. I see ... AH! Quick turn left!” They veered left, the next moment a large stone fell next to the van.

“Fuck!” They saw a person's shadow on the cliff where the stone came from.

“There they are!”

The shadow descended from the cliffs and landed on the ground and ran off.

“It's that Golden haired Wau!”

“Quick! Let's get her!”

Arga got out and started a flying disk and began to chase the golden Wau.

“What happened to two birds, one stone? Where is Seina?”

“Ah! Maybe this is a decoy!”

“It's got to be.”

“Well, the Wau child is better than nothing isn't it?”

“Forget that girl, if we don't know where Seina Yamada is, the risk is too big!”

“But she's right in front of us ... ...” Cheika was unable to give up his dream of getting rich quick.

“Then you can capture her by yourself.”

“Er ... um ... ... will you help me Ban?”

“I am sorry, but I'm staying with Arga, he's right.” Cheika watched the Wau girl running away.

“Well, fine then! Wish me luck!” He began to chase after her.

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Dr. Clay was given hacked access to the network in Tarrant's base. “They can secure their network all they like, but it's no match for a skilled person like you.” Clay stared at the monitor as he scanned the secret files on the network. He filtered the data and chose things that seemed interesting.

“... ... What's this!? PKW ... a wave that permeates and damages Light Hawk Wings ... Hmm, I heard rumors before that a royal ship was destroyed once ... Hmm, but it seems like it can be negated using two or more Light Hawk Wings or by using a Light Hawk Wing with a vibration shield and it's necessary to have a planet scale ship to generate this wave in the first place ... Well, I think I could miniaturize this easily. But since Jurai already knows it exists, I doubt they will let themselves fall victim to it again. It's still shocking that they used it once and put it in a vault to save for later.” After the scan of the data was completed, a list of other things was displayed.

“Hmm ... No, I don't think any of this will do, what else can you give me, there is a certain price to pay for the services you are asking from me.”

“I have access to Tarrant’s main bank account.”

“Hah! If you put your hand into another's wallet without permission, it can cause them a lot of damage, especially an organization like this.”

“Just think of it as a consolation fee from me to you.”

“Oh, is that so?”

“I was abducted by him, and ever since I have been suffering spiritually, he has deprived me of my body. As he robbed me, I have robbed him. It's a small price for him to pay for what he got from me.”

“Hah ... uhuhuhu ... I see ... The strong often take from the weak but it's not always a one-way street.” Clay said and then he saw the amount he was being given. “Wha ... What ... But this is…”

The amount of money presented there was not a frightening looking figure, but on the Earth, it was equivalent to tens of billions of dollars.

“Haha ... Wow! That's a lot of dirty money for pirates to have.”

“And it's all yours if you help me make it out of here alive.”

“It's been such a long time since I last had a good laugh. I'll accept your offer, it's a deal.” Clay was in a good mood.

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(He took the bait!) The Golden hair Wau running in front of Arga's eyes wasn't like the one with Seina. She looked like Erma but with gold hair.

Even though they erased the personal data in NB, Kirche had a backup saved out of their reach. Using Erma's personal data and combining it with Amane's hair data, she made an adult golden haired Wau disguise. Of course, she was naked, and she noticed that Arga was visibly wanting to catch her for more than just the money he would make for selling her.

“Gahahahaha!” Arga ran after her like a beast that was completely frenzied by the smell of blood.

Kirche noticed that Seina’s bio reaction had disappeared, which meant that he had found the Wau's cave. Just to be sure, she decided to buy him a few more minutes. She ran towards a cliff and fell off. Arga came over the cliff and squatted to look for her. However, the golden haired Wau which should have fallen to the bottom had suddenly disappeared.

Chapter Four: Residents in the Basement

Before Seina's eyes there was a large fissure. Although the width of the fissure wasn't so bad, the length of it was so long that the end couldn't be seen as if it went all the way to the other end of the planet. There seemed to be air containing a slight amount of moisture coming out of it as low shrubs and grasses grew around it.

“You go down here all the time?” Seina asked. The path sloped till it became nearly vertical but there was no indication that it was likely to get down very far.

“Onii-chan, over here!” The boy pointed to a place where large and small holes opened like wormwood along the fissure. There was a cavity below. “Quickly!” They went into the hole and the boy took out a small flashlight from his luggage bag and lit it. It seemed to be quite old, the metal here and there was scuffed up and the light emitting element seemed to be considerably deteriorated.

Nonetheless there was enough light to illuminate the inside of the cave. Seina’s suit had a lighting function that would have illuminated the far away areas brightly, but it seemed unnecessary to use it.

“Your older sister ... is she okay?”

The girl seemed uneasy as she looked up at Seina and said, “I'll be fine, although it may take some time, I'll heal.” The young girl responded with ease, it made him remember when Yoshiko got her favorite clothes soaked with Seina's blood.

They went through a series of intricate caves. “So .... How long is it to your village?”

“It's about 8 hours on foot, and we’re taking the long way around.”

“Oh, so this isn't the normal way?”

“We live by hiding from them, so we can't go to the settlement directly.”

“But we often walk this long of a distance.”

“When we come out, we use a different route that's much shorter, but there are some shortcuts to get back down to the basement, so it's fine.” The boy pointed to the corner of the cave as he said that. At the bottom was a hole in the wall behind a stone that one would overlook at first glance.

“... ... Quite a few people have come and gone from here.” The stone was worn from constant use. Behind it a stone pavement was laid on the floor, stones of different colors were arranged in a pattern in the central part. At first glance it looked someone had set up a simple residence in that part of the cave.

“Onii-chan, in the middle of that stone.” Pulled by the girl, Seina stood in the center. The boy who followed a few seconds later, shined the light of the flashlight on one of the patterns on the surrounding walls. A few minutes later, the stone at their feet began to hum and soon they were transported to another place. The boy and girl led Seina by the hands out of the hall. Unlike the previous tunnels, plants that emitted light like those on Jurai were planted in places to light the way.

(That was a transfer gate ... ... is it here from the ruins or did they bring it when they settled?) If they were naturalists, that kind of technology should have been disposed of. Needless to say, it's not like their descendants would strictly keep to those ideals. (If this leads to ruins of the oldest civilization, it's a great discovery.) Nonetheless, that was no concern to Seina now.

“This cave system is quite extensive, isn't it?”

“It spreads around the area where those Shank guys are ... ...”

“Shank!? Those are Shank's pirates?” Seina's blood boiled.

“Well, yes, I heard that Tarrant Shank is their boss.”

“Really… …” Anxiety overwhelmed Seina.

“Do you know him big brother?”

“He's a famous Space Pirate. You said these tunnels were centered on the area where Shank is?”

“Yeah, there was a big opening there originally and there's an underground cave centered on it. Our clan originally lived in the center of it long before we were born, then suddenly the Shank guys came and built a base.”

“So, you're hiding under the basement to the base?”

“Yeah, we can't go near there though.”

“Aren't you worried that they'll find you?”

“The way in looks like a bottomless pit, so adults just assume it’s dangerous and never get close.”

“Is that so? But why aren’t there any guards?”

“Since the underground parts are completely covered with metal walls, there's no place for them to get in and out. You can't enter from the base, there's only an entrance from the outside.”

“Okay ... ... so what if I wanted to go out near the base, could I manage that somehow ...”

“I'll show you if you want to go, I know the way because I often go to the playground.”

“The playground?”

“It's a secret to adults, but there are lots of old ruins there and it's very interesting.”

“... I understand ... it's a good thing I found you then.” He had thought helping them was a detour, but it had become a short cut.

“That's where our village is located.” The boy pointed to an exit where a bright light came from.

“Who is he!?” Two guards with spears were standing where the tunnel opened. They pointed spears at Seina.

“It's okay! This guy helped us out.” The boy immediately waved his hands and ran away in front of Seina.

“Kusuro! Acha!” The guards cried when they saw the boy and the girl next to Seina.

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The settlement was in a domed area about 30 meters in diameter. It was completely artificial, like it had been made of ceramic. There was a 5-meter hole in the ceiling from which sunshine flooded in.

“I can't believe this stupid son of mine!” Most of the village adults who came running were female, one mother-like woman jumped out the crowd and suddenly grabbed the boy and started spanking him.

“I'm sorry, Mom!”

“Why didn't you stop him Acha!”

“Well...”

“Oh Acha! Not you too!” The woman then began to spank Acha's butt. Although it was not as intense as the boy’s, the sound echoed inside the dome.

“I'm sorry.” Acha said with teary eyes, but her facial expression was bright. Unlike the boy who held his butt and was crouched over with teary eyes.

“Thank you very much for helping my son and this girl.” The mother's anger had passed, and she finally ran to Seina and bowed deeply.

The other adults also approached Kusuro and Acha and were pleased that they were safe.

“Oh, no, it's my duty ... and also ... it might be my fault ...”

“Oh?”

“Well, I heard that Acha's mother is sick, is that true?”

“Yes ... ... It's bad, but if we had some medicinal herbs she could recover, but it’s not safe to go harvesting...”

“So that was a dangerous place?”

“Yes, especially for Acha. She's her mother's only child.”

“I understand why you were worried.”

“To be honest, I was planning to go to get them myself. For us, Acha's mother is an important woman and she's important to our idol because she is his shrine maiden. We can't let her die.”

“She's the shrine maiden of the idol ...?” At that time, there were sounds coming from many people, the men came forward, and from that crowd an old man of approached Seina.

“What do you think of him elder?” The Elder man came before Seina.

“Did you come from the sky?” He stared at Seina's face.

“... ... ... Uuhm?”

“Yes, that's right Elder, big brother came from the sky ... ... and he brought a big sister ...”

“Oh! Okay! Then you're the legendary brave hero!”

“What?”

“The village is going to be saved!”

“Do you mean by me?”

“You shouldn't take the Elder so seriously, I'm sure he'd say that to anyone,” Kusuro said.

“...This time I mean it!” The elder said “Come now, let's throw him a welcome party!”

× × ×

“There is no doubt that this is his cruiser but there's no one in the inside. It's not going anywhere that's for sure. Should we bring it to the engineers?” A heavy machine like a large six-legged spider finished excavating Seina's cruiser.

“We don't know what kind of traps it has, it's a philosopher's ship after all. Destroy it!” Tarrant seemed annoyed and broke communication.

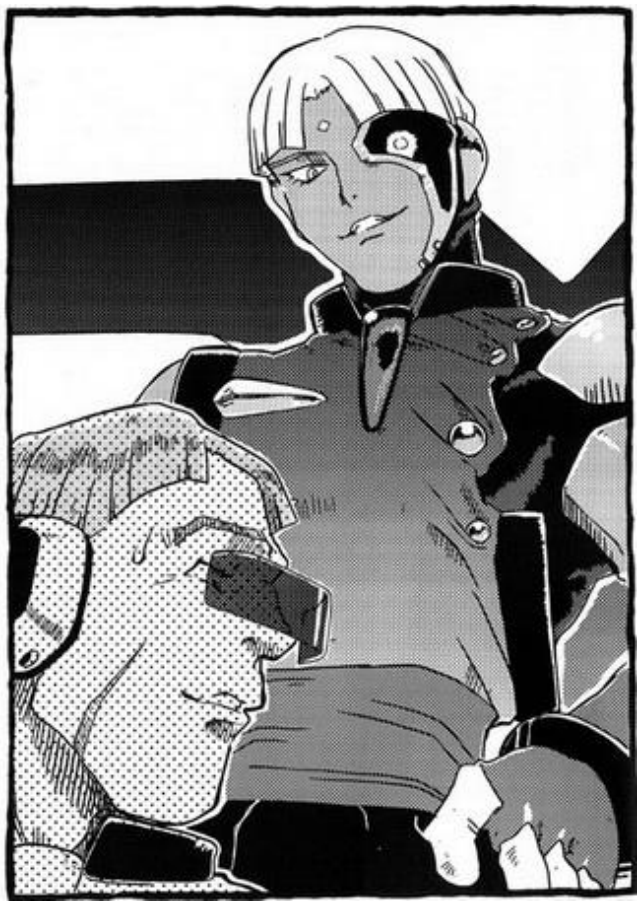
“Roger that!”

× × ×

“Chh! So, these three saw Seina Yamada?” Tarrant asked.

“Only signs of them, but they saw him.”

“What do you mean?”



“They were in the middle of hunting around that area, and they seem to have found a new Wau.”

“How?”

“It was a frustrating chase, two young people who were chasing it seemed to have been killed by Seina Yamada ... and it seems that they encountered an older golden haired Wau on the way ... ...”

“That was obviously a decoy to let those children get away.”

“Yes. It seems that way.” The operator looked at Tarrant and was relieved that he didn't seem too angry. He turned to Arga. “So did you catch it?”

“I lost sight of it, I chased after it, but it disappeared ...”

“It disappeared ...!!” At that moment Tarrant's was reminded of the time Kirche transformed from NB. “That's his NB! Scan the area it vanished in! We need to find it!”

× × ×

“How about you, Kashak, how are you feeling?” The woman called Kashak was a golden Wau woman like Acha, but had brown hair mixed in some places and overall, her hair seemed a bit dull because of that. Still her coat was beautiful looking when the sunlight leaked in and hit it in the dimly lit room, she was in.

“... ... Yes, thanks to the medicine I'm feeling much better.”

“Well, you should still rest for a while. By the way, I heard that you had some news for me.” The elders restrained Kashak, who tried to get up.

“Yes, our guardian deity has awoken.”

“... Was this around the time things started to get noisy above ground?”

“Yes, and then that brave man appeared…”

“And ... ...?” Kashak looked at the elder with a strange look.

“And I'm saying he's the genuine thing, he even came from the sky!”

“You can see him in the morning but in your present condition you should ... ... wait... No way, do you mean you want Acha to... !?” The Elder quietly acknowledged Kashak's implied question with confusion.

“Something like that ...” Kashak covered her face with both hands.

“That girl is meant to be the next generation shrine maiden, moreover, he helped her get the medicinal herbs and that just happened to be where the Space pirates attacked them.”

“Is that so?”

“So, I think what we should do is obvious, I hope you have no objection to letting Acha take on the priestess role?”

“… … I see ... I agree.”

× × ×

“Acha is going to become the new shrine maiden!?” Kusuro looked up at his mother in astonishment as she began cooking for the party.

“Oh, but it’s because Ms. Kashak is sick.”

“No, it's simply an honor thing, it's a bit early for her to go off to the gods ...” Another woman in the kitchen said. Kusuro quickly ran out of the house.

“Kusuro! Wait! It is already decided ... Acha ... …” Another woman held his mother back from stopping Kusuro.

“They grew up like they were brother and sister, and the elder knows that.”

× × ×

As the woman said, the elder was expecting Kusuro, he let him go ahead without saying anything. From there he was accompanied by a maiden who was there to take him to Acha.

“Wait a moment.” She stopped him and sprinkled salt on him. They were entering a sanctuary, so she was purifying him.

“I don't have much time.” He said as he ran off and passed through the curtain.

“Kusuro!” Acha looked at him and showed the decorations that had been put in her hair. “Do you like them? They're my mother's. It feels weird having them.”

“Yeah ... ... it suits you.” Kusuro narrowed his eyes to see past the dazzling objects.

“Here, take this! You've always wanted it haven't you?” Kusuro gave her a faceted crystal that was dark blue like a tropical sea. It was an exquisite aquamarine gemstone. It was hung on a thin thread.

“Oh ... but isn't this your treasure?”

“Not anymore, it is a tribute to the shrine maiden.”

“Thank you!” She took it with both hands and looked at its beautiful sparkles.

“We won't be able to play together anymore.”

“Yeah ... ... but ... as shrine maiden ... ... I'll pray hard to the universe for your happiness.” Although Acha's expression was slightly cloudy, the expectations of becoming the shrine maiden were still large, so she still said that with a smile.

“Thank you.”

Even if he had a crush on her, he knew that someday Acha would become a shrine maiden, and he knew what that meant. Naturally, he had always known there was no chance of a love affair happening. So, in a way it was as if he had come to see his best friend who was moving away somewhere else. Still, he felt a strong loss as if Acha was now out of his reach.

“.....” They couldn't continue the conversation anymore. Kusuro just stood there.

“Come on, Acha, Kusuro, you must prepare soon, don't keep the brave man waiting.” The attending maiden said gently.

“... Yeah, well then, good luck Acha.”

“I'm going to do the dance, please come and watch.” They exchanged scratches, which was a sign of affection. This was the last time they could interact as children.

× × ×

“Have you made your goodbyes?” Kusuro, who came out alone from the back room, was shedding big tears. The elder gently but an arm around him. “Do you dislike the brave hero?”

“... ... No ... He helped us ... ... He's a very kind person.” Remembering Seina's face made his sadness diminish. His fear of being chased by the pirates, and the frustrated feelings of desperation and being unable to protect Acha were a bother to him more than anything. So, when Seina appeared, he saw him as a brave man. Besides, he had a gentle atmosphere that only old people had.

“Acha will be the shrine maiden for that brave man so you should be happy.”

“… … Yeah, you're right!” Kusuro responded as he wiped his tears with his arms. That brave man would surely protect Acha, Kusuro was sure of that.

“Normally children wouldn't be able to participate in the festivities, but this time is special, we should go watch Acha's dance while we eat the celebratory dishes.”

“.....” However, thinking about the ritual for Seina and Acha, Kusuro felt a bit embarrassed about going. He remembered though that he'd promised to guide Seina to the area near the pirate's base. Although it was a playground, preparations were necessary to get there. Now was the perfect time to acquire the needed items because all the adults were busy.

“Is Ms. Kashak going to participate in Acha's ceremony?”

“It seems she's doing better thanks to you and those herbs, but it's best that she refrains from doing anything strenuous for the time being. Oh right, she said she wanted to thank you for the herbs, you should go see her afterwards.”

“What ... ... Oh yes... Right!”

The way to the enemy base was in the direction of the shrine of the idol statue. It was a great place to hide the necessary packages. In addition, he'd get to see the beautiful now ex shrine maiden that he was actually longing for. As he thought about it his heart was moving like a ringing bell.

× × ×

The village wasn't in a cave made by natural erosion but rather in an artificially made artifact like a dome. It was destroyed in some places, leaving cracks in parts of the ceiling and walls. What kind of facility it was used for originally was uncertain. In the center was a small river and an underground lake. Luminescent fruit trees covered the inside of the dome, and it was very bright. Around it was houses built by digging holes. They were lined up like a little apartment complex.

“This is a fantastic looking settlement.” Seina said as he was surrounded by the elders and young Wau women on a big terrace overlooking the underground lake. A variety of dishes were lined up in front of him. “I bet there's more to see then there is to do.”

“Ahaha, you're right about that ~ ... ... That's why we're so glad that you came here ...” The Wau women surrounding Seina were all shapely. If anyone he knew were to see the situation it would have gone south rather quickly.

“Celebrate brave hero, have all the food and girls you like!”

“... ... I'm sorry I think misheard you...”

“No, no, I said both meals and girls, or would you like a man?”

“No thanks, I'm good!” Seina rushed to say. Otherwise, it seemed like a man would come out.

“Ho ho ho, don't cry, it's time to celebrate!”

“It's just... I'm not used to such a thing ...”

“Our village is quarantined because of the Space Pirates, people rarely come from other villages, so we need new blood or else our gene pool will stagnate. Do you not want to help?”

“I thought you were supposed to be a brave man. At least that's what Kusuro said ... ...”

It made sense that they'd want to bear the child of a brave hero.

“There's no need to hesitate!”

“I'm reluctant! Generally, I'm considered a minor.”

“It's ok, they know what they're doing... and there's no problem with it, the elder of the village has given permission.” The elder smiled and nudge Seina with his elbow.

“Isn't helping people, the work of a brave hero?” The women looked up at Seina as they hung onto him.

“But … …” He thought of Kiriko's face and shook off his evil thoughts, then he thought of Airi. Suddenly all of his urges faded away. After all he knew that if something happened here, Kiriko would be angry, and Airi would probably try even harder to pursue him. Few things struck as much horror into him as that.

“I can't, I need to think of the safety of my colleagues, I have work that still needs to be done.” He said with a resolute attitude, “But thank you for the meal.”

“Well, one should always think of their belly first ... ... then you can relax.”

“Hahaha ... It's tasty.” For the time being, He ignored the elder's words, but the women's hospitable handsiness didn't stop.

While pretending to recommend drinks and meals, several women from the left and right of him took the opportunity to push plenty of breasts up against him to keep him from escaping entirely.

“Hey brave man, are you sure you won't help us?” Seina's was embarrassed the women began begging. “Don't you want to help?”

“Oh, everyone get ready!” The elder said as everyone's eyes turned towards the small stage extending out to the underground lake.

“Oh, is that Acha?”

The curtain opened. Behind it was Acha, wearing a costume embedded with black stones. The hole in the ceiling was covered with a condensing lens so that the collected light struck Acha underneath it like a spotlight, making her golden hair shine.

The bustle of the banquet settled down into silence, a click clack noise echoed as a signal and Acha, who was staring at Seina, bowed deeply, and instruments started playing as a certain sound began. Acha began to dance quietly.

Clap Clap Clap!

The dance finished in about three minutes, but still it was wonderfully and deserved praise. Seina gave generous applause to Acha who bowed and got off stage.

“Come, Acha. Over Here!” Encouraged by the elder, Acha, embarrassed came over to Seina. She took a knee in front of Seina, and her head dropped deeply. She raised her head back up with her hands up on her face with fright.

“Huh?”

“Did you like Acha's dance brave hero?”

真・天地無用!魎皇鬼外伝
天地無用!GXP 13
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 13
By the time he looked at Acha, who had tears of happiness in her eyes, it was too late.
...I'm so happy!"
"Alright! With this, the pledge between the Hero and the shrine maiden is complete!"
"What? Pledge??"
He felt like he had been caught in some trap, but...

“Uh, well yeah, it was great.”

“Then take Acha's hands into yours, brave hero!”

“Oh. Okay.” Seina thought that it was a sign of praise for the dance.

“That was awesome, Acha.” Seina put both hands in the middle of Acha's small hands.

Acha was still embarrassed yet she grasped Seina's hands firmly.

“Alright! With this, the contract between the brave man and the shrine maiden has been sealed!”

A roar of cheers came out of the surroundings due to the elders' declaration.

“What? Why do I feel like I've fallen for some kind of trap?”

“… … I'm so happy!” It was already too late when he saw Acha rejoicing with watery eyes.

*** * * Translators’ note: Not gonna lie, I adapted this section very loosely because it is 100% creeperific in the original Japanese. Acha is way over sexualized during the dance scene because this is her coming of age ceremony basically. * * ***

Chapter Five: For Each Purpose

*** * * Translators' note: This would be around the start of episode 24. The whole episode happens in a different order then the anime due to how much has been changed and there's a bunch of useless bullshit added that I don't have the fortitude to translate anymore, so I cut out quite a lot of scenes that cut from Seina or the girl's plot. If we're being honest, I cut half this chapter so… * * ***

"Ryoko, you check the GP. Suiren, comb through Jurai's information! I'll check the Army and Seniwa; everyone else provide support!"

Karen and others sat down and began accessing the net.

Ryoko hesitated.

"What's wrong? ... Oh, I see." Ryoko changed into Erma in front of Kiriko.

"This body is easier to work with."

"Then let's get started!"

"Roger that!" Everyone started working at once.

"What should we do?" Neiju and Amane, who weren't good at information scanning, looked at each other.

"Amane check through any suspicious data we find. Neiju ... ..."

"I'll just go make some tea." Neiju headed back to the kitchen while waving with her hands.

"I'm sorry, but please do."

"Kiriko, we're ready to access the information."

"OK, let's start with trying to find anything about Seina's trajectory as he left the Academy."

"That won't work, there are too many ships coming and going and those who took Fuku used jammers."

"But that ship has a tracer."

"Why does it have such a thing?" Everyone stared at Kiriko without thinking.

"That ship was originally Airi's, so it was secretly attached to find her easily whenever she ran away from the job."

"Her secretaries and all of the people in the workshop cooperatively installed the spyware for it."

"Hah ... ... There really is no one on her side."

* * * **Translators' note: This is a call back to OVA 4. * * ***

“Tracing it still isn't easy, it's quite a weak signal. But I can use a filter to try and isolate it.” They looked at the tracer pattern and the filter to isolate it, the route of the cruiser was specified. Although it was quite difficult for an ordinary operator to figure its trajectory out, Kiriko excluded 99% of the likely paths in ten minutes using her own experience. However, that left nearly three hundred potential destinations.

“Amane, do you see anything?”

“... ... Perhaps... This one in particular is suspicious.” Amane reduced the number of candidates down to ten. “I can't explain it... but these ten give me a particularly bad feeling.”

“Let's check them.” A number was attached each candidate, and they analyzed them one by one.

“Route 01, confirmed wrong!”

“Route 02, confirmed wrong!”

“Route 04, trace pattern confirmed!”

“Amazing, Amane's intuition was spot on.”

“I'm worried about Seina ... ... Where did he go?”

“Wait... is this ... ...?”

“What's wrong, Kiriko?”

“Wait a minute!” Kiriko got up and began to communicate with someone.

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“Sorry about that” After finishing the communication, Kiriko came back and sat in her chair.

“Who did you call?”

“I was just confirming something... There's evidence of a battle there.”

“So then, Seina's criminal theory is correct!”

“There was actually a battle there twice.”

“Twice?”

“Because the interval was short, it seems like one, but Seina's cruiser's reaction disappeared between the first and second battles, probably because he did a super space jump.”

“The second time one of the ships was camouflaged.”

“... So Seina is innocent?”

“Yeah, the ship that shipped the Kamidake wasn't attacked, it disguised itself to make it look like that was what happened.”

“In other words, someone planned to take the Kamidake away from the beginning.”

“No way ... ... What the hell!?”

“... And look at this.”

The navigation route prediction chart of the ship was displayed.

“The destination of the shipping ship was a densely populated zone of the GP and the federation's routing network, That's the worst place to try and steal a shipment.”

“It's almost like something only the good luck fleet would try ... ...”

“... ... Hey! There, is that ...?” Amane pointed to a corner on the graph.

“You've got an eye on you.”

“Sorry I kept you waiting.” Komachi appeared on the monitor.

“Oh, hey Komachi, how was it?”

“As you said, there was confirmed entry and exit of a huge number of unknown pirate ships that bribed their way into that area.”

“Do you know their delivery route?”

“It was pretty cleverly concealed, and I only got it from the data of the commercial transaction from my friends at the Tennan Zaibatsu. It might take me a while to find an exact destination though ... ...”

“Thank you. That alone is enough.”

“No, thank you. I owe the boy.” Komachi broke communication.

“Alright! If we can narrow down the data, we can find his destination ...” A few minutes later, Kiriko caught a small trace of the super space overflow on the Tarrant 's base planet.

“Perhaps here, there's no mistaking it.”

“So did you find Seina?” Airi was displayed on the monitor that appeared suddenly.

× × ×

“Seto, thanks to Mikami, Kiriko and the others have run away from the Kuramitsu family home where they were being held under arrest.” An operator reported to Seto with a voice close to a scream.

“Oh my, no need to be so loud. Wasn't Misao-chan there to stop them?” Seto asked as if she was surprised, but the expression on her face seemed somewhat irrational.

“They seem to have fled to the outside of the academy in an unknown spaceship.” On the monitor in front of Seto, the route data analyzed by Kiriko was displayed.

“Oh, my, what a troublesome place for us. We can't follow because of the complex treaties we have, right? Isn't that supposed to be off limits?”

“It seems the GP thinks that Seina stole the Kamidake and ran off there.”

“I see.”

“... Well, I guess there's nothing we can do.”

Minaho breathed a big sigh, the operators were laughing. “Can you quit pretending like this isn't all part of your plan?”

“I have no idea what you're talking about.”

“Seto-sama! The First Fleet of the GP, with the flagship ‘Seniwa’ has started moving towards their destination!”

“Their response is early ... I see, so he must want to oust Taima. It's practically as if he's going after them himself ... ...” Seto stared at the star of the Solar system Seina was in on the monitor.

The Mikagami was lurking in the asteroid belt of that solar system.

× × ×

“Tarrant-sama! It seems we've discovered Seina Yamada's NB.”

“Okay, just in case, lock it up with a jamming restraint and bring me the key. Did you find Seina Yamada too?” Tarrant asked.

“No, but I suspect he is with the Waus, I hear they're hiding underground.”

“They nest like moles ... ...”

“Tarrant, we’re receiving an emergency contact from the GP troops.”

“Did the long-distance space communication system come back online? Report!”

“Although it only has minimal features, the long-distance hyperspace system for communication in space has recovered.”

“I understand. Turn on communications.” Tarrant immediately created a secret field and turned on communications.

“This is an emergency. The GP is tracking the location of the Kamidake. It's only a matter of time till they find you.” The man displayed on the monitor came up without a background.

“Seina Yamada is here, so I expected them sooner or later.”

“What's with you!? How can you be so cavalier about being visited by a pestilence god ...”?

“Uhuhuhuhu.”

“It's not a laughing matter. Be sure to clean up after Seina Yamada. And get us the information on the Daedalus as soon as you can.”

“We've unloaded the Kamidake from the Hoystoke and we have it hidden under camouflage, but we still haven't cracked it.”

“Hurry up! A fleet searching for the Kamidake is already heading there. If I were you, I'd try escaping before the arrival of the fleet.”

“If they’re searching for those who took the Kamidake ... ... then they're looking for Seina Yamada and the Space Pirate who collaborated with him, not us.” By announcing that Ryoko Balta was in Seina's crew they would think her to be the pirate that stole it. Seina was still the only one suspected of taking the Kamidake, at least at this stage.

“Hmm … … I see. That's a good idea.”

“If I have to, I can sacrifice the base.” It was difficult to keep Tarrant's base hidden, but if he intended to abandon it, it would only seem like Seina had destroyed an enemy pirate base.

“Well hurry up. You owe us the schematics for the Daedalus regardless of what happens.”

“I know that, and I want to keep a mutually beneficial relationship in the future.”

“Absolutely.” He ended the conversation.

“Capture Seina Yamada. I don't mind you being a little rough. If I have to resuscitate him, I will.” (I already have the Kamidake, so we might as well leave while we can.)

× × ×

“They grow up so quickly, don't they?” Kashak wiped her tears with a cloth. Kusuro came up to her with the elder to report the situation with Acha to the shrine maiden who lived near the idol statue.

“I can't believe she's already five.” At 5 the mortality rate fell, and so for them that was when they marked their adulthood.”

“Acha's dance was beautiful.”

“I really must thank you and her for the herbs you got me.”

“It was thanks to the brave man that I was able to harvest them ... ... my mother spanked me over leaving to get them.”

“I'm just happy you got them Kusuro.”

Kusuro turned red in the face and looked away. He had a crush on her that was different from the feelings he had for Acha.

× × ×

“Are you sure you don't want me to give you some relief.”

“Uh, no, that won't be necessary ... ...”

“No, sleep with me!” The women leaned up to Seina and flaunted their flesh. They were like fish in a pond that had food thrown in it.

“If choosing is the issue I'm sure they wouldn't mind co-operating.”

“Oh, of course not ♡” Everyone was happy at the elder’s suggestion.

A small vibration quaked the area and a sound rang out.

– – – Suzum ... ...

“What? Was that an earthquake?” For a moment the place was quiet, but the villagers didn't seem to mind, like they accustomed to the earthquakes. They were just careful to watch for objects falling from the ceiling.

“... No, it's not!” There wasn't periodic shaking like an earthquake. It was obviously a sound coming from above the ground.

“Something is about to break through the ceiling!” Seina’s crisis - avoidance sensor judged the sound as dangerous.

“Everyone, get out! The Space Pirates are coming!” Seina yelled semi-confidently. Fortunately, it seemed everyone heard him.

Daga-a-a-a-An!

At the moment rubble started to fall from the ceiling, the villagers all ran away. If it wasn't for Seina they would have all been crushed.

“Everyone escape to the idol statue shrine! Men lend a hand to the women and children! Don't use the central aisle!” The elders cried out and they passed it on to the other elders.

“Acha and the brave man go to the central aisle!” In other words, they were giving a preferential escape path to Acha and the brave hero, the other villagers should have been using the center aisle.

“But isn't… …!” Seina swallowed the words he was about to say as he ran with the Elder and Acha. The next moment, the ceiling collapsed, and a six-legged spider machine appeared to fall from the roof.

× × ×

“Oh, it looks like they've made a nest down here, they sure scurry away fast.” Arga checked the village out on the monitor, but he could only confirm about a dozen people. Moreover, those signs quickly scattered.

“Is there any sign of Seina Yamada?”

“It seems that there were plenty of people down here until a moment ago. The reaction is centered on the central terrace-like place.” He switched the monitor to use infrared rays and residual odor sensors which indicated that Wau’s were there.

“..... Oh! Perhaps this is him.”

In the image enlarged on the monitor, there was someone with only the head and the hand part glowing red.

“Since all the other Wau are reflected with their whole body, there's no mistaking it.”

Seina's suits shut off various sensors. Which meant only his hands and face were giving off readings.

“... ... Chhhhh! But there's so many of them, it’s difficult to distinguish them ... ... Huh!” Seina, the elder, and Acha' s reactions overlapped. Seina’s appearance was difficult to judge.

“There's no mistaking it though, he's in that room!”

“Alright! Let's go” The heavy machine thrust into the aisle where Seina escaped with its arm that generated the super-vibration wave.

× × ×

“It's been a long time, Kirche. I am glad to see you again.” Tarrant stared at the captured Kirche with snake-like eyes. “You might want to refrain from moving, that is unless you enjoy getting burned.” The restraints holding Kirche would burn her body with energy if she struggled or tried to access the super space communications, the base computer or nano machines. Her storage medium would also be damaged, and serious damage to her data would cause “death”.

“My men are on their way to pick up Seina Yamada, although there's a possibility that they'll just come back with his dead body. I hope you're looking forward to it.”

“Gaah!”

Tarrant once fell for Kirche's trickery and wasn't in the mood to listen to her words again. The only thing that Kirche could do was glare at Tarrant with a frustrated look.

“Uhuhuhuh ... ... Ahahahaha!” Tarrant laughed to boast about his victory.

Chapter Six: Awakening

*** * * Translators' note: This chapter was way too long with way too many over stretched scenes, so I cut out about half of it... * * ***

"What is that!?" The cave in the rock which was around Seina was an obvious artifact. It was a strange shaped passage like one would find in a spacecraft. There was a bulkhead that remained half open.

"That's it!" Past that was a huge domed space.

"This is ... ..."

"Here it is. The sacred place where the gods are worshiped ... and where we keep the figure of our god."

"Is this … …?" Seina looked up at the gigantic statue with a stupefied expression.

It was half buried in rocks, but it was about 15 meters in height. Well, the visible half was, but the whole body was probably over 30 meters (33 yards).

"... ... a long time ago, in the distant past. Like a long time ago, like my grandpa's grandpa and his grandpa's grandpa long time ago ... Evil came to this village. Thanks to the Idol and the strength of the brave hero the evil was annihilated ... ... its strength was like that of a demon's."

"Huh ... ..." Looking at the rock covered statue it was pretty clear that wasn't true. It was almost as if the rock had formed around it. There were clear signs of it being dug of the rock out by hand.

Seina kept silent and listened to the elder while looking at Acha who was eagerly praying.

"Elder!"

"Oh! How is the evacuation situation?"

"Everyone is headed here but the machines are approaching quickly ..."

Gayeeeeeeeein! At that time, a loud scraping sound was heard from nearby.

"No! They're cutting through the outer shell! Skip the graces, let's cut to the ceremony."

"Ceremony?"

"This village is once again plagued by evil and a brave hero has arrived; our God has revived … Just as it was foretold." The elder looked up at the statue.

× × ×

The toxins that were being produced by the bacteria in Kashak had been neutralized but not the bacteria itself and she was quite weak and unable to evacuate, Kusuro stayed with her instead of evacuating.

“I'm no longer the shrine maiden, you must escape. Leave me.”

“No! I won't! Even if you're not the shrine maiden, you're Acha's mother!”

“Kusuro ... ...”

“Sakaka, you have fast legs, please hurry and find help. I'll protect Kashak in here!” The other adults and elders in the village should have ordered people to help Kashak, but they forgot.

“Yes, I'm on it!” Sakaka rushed and quickly looked around for something to use as a weapon. He ended up settling on a nearby ceremonial dagger.

× × ×

“Raise the output!” Arga yelled.

“It's pointless! I think were drilling through a spaceship, it has battleship level armor!”

“Shit, so should we just try going through the tunnels directly?”

“I'm afraid of doing that, who knows what will happen due to his luck! What if we use chemical weapons?”

“Oh! But the golden Wau is here with him? I don't want to burn her up too.”

“There's always sleeping gas.”

“That won't work... the GP bio enhancement probably makes it ineffective... and I hear he has a special suit.” They wanted to confront him inside of one of the machines. It was a suicidal act for them to go out on foot while the rest of the machines were operating.

“What should we do?”

“From the reaction of the vibration sensors, the inside seems to be half filled with rocks.”

“In other words, there's a large hole somewhere. Do you know where it's open?”

“I can't tell from here, but it seems that the outer wall seems to be somewhat degraded, it's possible to detect to a certain extent with the vibration sensor where it brittle.”

“Let's dig there then.”

× × ×

Sakaka came running into the passageways.

“Sakaka! What happened to Ms. Kashak?”

“Mikaka and Kusuro were never evacuated!”

“Didn't anyone go to help her?” The elders were alarmed.

“No. No one ever gave the order to... ...”

The outer shell sounded like a construction site as the machines tried to get through it.

“We'll send people immediately.”

“No, elder, it's useless! The entrance in the center is also buried!”

“Is there no other route to get to Acha's mother!?” Seina asked. Seina, who was bio enhanced, was the best candidate to rescue her.

“Going outside is impossible in this state .... And I don't want to make our brave hero go.”

“Mother-sama ... ... Kusuro ... ...” Acha was about to start crying.

At such times, Seina hated his ability to detect danger because it made him understand that going outside was reckless. He had to quit thinking about her and had to start thinking about protecting Acha instead. “Staying here is dangerous, is there no way to escape to the outside?”

“The end of this tunnel comes out outside the enemy base, if we go then there will be nothing keeping them from attacking us.”

“Now is the time to ask our God for help! The brave hero and the shrine maiden are here! We'll surely be saved.”

Everyone knelt and started praying to the Idol. Seina was stuck. Kirche was missing. Fuku was caught. Communications to the Earth were delayed for another 12 hours.

(No, stop it...)

Gagyaaaaaann!

The instinct to defend was boiling in Seina.

... ... If you know the way to the base...

... ...So, if you can unlock Fuku's restraint using nano machines...

... ...The enemy is targeting us.

“There's no time left, we have to sacrifice the Hero and the Maiden!”

“Eh?” Seina had been caught up in his own head but was being lifted off the ground. He was tossed on a pad in the center.

“What?! What are you doing!?” The ceiling of the shrine suddenly collapsed, and a heavy machine appeared to fall down from the ceiling.

× × ×

The pirates who weren't digging found Kashak and Kusuro and tried to capture them. Kashak tried to offer herself to them in exchange for letting Kusuro go. They cruelly declined the offer and moved to attack Kusuro. Kashak quickly jumped out of bed and picked up a dagger and pressed it against the other pirate's neck.

"If you hurt that child, he will die!" Kashak said but the machine didn't stop.

Soon after blood dripped down from Arga's neck. "Did you not understand what I meant when I said stop doing this!"

"Cheika, don't worry about me, it's going to hurt, but I can be resuscitated. We need that Wau!" Kashak having played her only card put down the knife and surrendered when suddenly,

Oooaaaaaaaaaa!

It was like a mighty lion's roar, a dense mass of anger accompanied by a tremor. The sounds of the heavy machines that were digging faded away instantly.

"What? My sensors are all malfunctioning! What's wrong?"

"We're looking into it ... ... No, wait, stop, aaaah!"

Suddenly the other side of the line went silent. A few moments passed and he got a message from another pirate.

"All-machine alert! Heavy machines back to the heavy machinery storage!"

"What's going on!?"

"There's something coming from the hole we dug!"

Zuun! ... Zuun! ... ... Zuun ... ... An odd sound gradually approached the surface.

"....." The commanding pirate silently starred at the hole. His whole body was drenched with sweat, and so were the other Space Pirates but they weren't afraid of something invisible. Their instincts recognized the familiar sound, it was the thing that they experienced on a daily basis. The sound of death approaching.

Zuu Wu Nuun! .....Zuu Wu Nuun!.... Zuu Wu Nuun! And it appeared from the darkness as a giant humanoid machine.

“Oooo Ooh Oo Oo Oo Oo Oh!” The humanoid raised its head and roared as if to show its existence and power. It was the incarnation of destruction, the descent of a God of Death.

“... ... Shoot, shoot, shoot, shoot!”

× × ×

“That odor ... ... What's this bad smell?” Seina, who was in the cockpit of the huge humanoid, muttered.

He put a small amount of force on the spherical controller. The humanoid rushed over to the nearest drilling machine and snapped it in half, the one behind it also split.

“Why! What is such a thing doing here!?” The captain of the enemy pirates shouted.

“... Oh, yes, why is this such a thing here?” Seina who heard them agreed looking at the expressionless girl in the cockpit who stood looking pale like a ghost.

× × ×

Several minutes before:

It was definitely a transfer gate that the villagers had put him on as a “sacrifice”. But the problem was, where was he transferred to.

He felt like something was biometrically scanning him. Perhaps it was some kind of biometric authentication. It was reasonable to think that the thing which they thought to be a religious idol, was more than just a statue.

“Acha, are you OK? ..... Hey, Acha? Acha!?” Strings of light began to dance around Acha and scan her.

“What? A time freeze!?” Acha was wrapped in a field and frozen in time.

And suddenly the light began to swing around. It tickled him– – –

“A Royal Tree!?” The feeling was definitely similar to that of a Royal Tree. The nerve lights shining on Seina's suit emerged from the wall of the cockpit.

“Good, ZINV.”

“Who is that?”

A human voice suddenly sounded in the cockpit. It spoke Japanese. However, he could not find a figure to go with the voice

“Oh my ... Do you understand me?” It was a slightly flat way of talking without intonation, but it was clearly Japanese.

“Who are you? Where are you?” Seina responded in Japanese. The voice made him feel nostalgic.

“I'm within ZINV.” A sphere on the floor in the front glowed, and a girl came up from it.

“Are you ... ... D?” The last words he said unconsciously. There was no conscious part of Seina that would even know to say those words. Half of her bright young face was hidden by her hair. Her skin was pure white, almost transparent. She was a pretty girl who looked almost like a doll.

“I was sleeping alone here... I don't have my personal data with me.”

“Personal data? Are you an AI?”

“Yes.”

“Well, what exactly is up with this ZINV thing ... Actually, what happened to Acha? Tell me that first.” Acha remained frozen in time.

“That child is time frozen because she was causing noise while ZINV was trying to link with you. I'll cancel the field around her when it's done.” The girl let out a little sigh.

“What's wrong with you?”

“I'm tired from talking, it's been a long time since we last talked.”

“... ... Oh, yeah, that's right.”

It was a bit unexpected, as this was uncommon even for advanced personal data, but her Astral had clearly returned and he could clearly make out her personality. Seina felt a certain familiarity spring up, and they smiled at each other.

“... ... Right?”

A monitor suddenly started, and the state of the villagers was displayed. Seina had completely forgotten about it, but they were in the midst of being attacked by Space pirates.

“Sorry. I was glad to see you for the first time in such a long time.” The emotion felt between them was palpable, and if nothing had been going on it would have been likely that Seina and the girl would've continued talking to each other happily for quite a while. Seina could feel this, but he knew he had to act.

“I have to save everyone.”

“Well then, ZINV wants to go with you.”

The body of Acha emerged and came down to the girl. The girl held her. Of course, not physically, but the image of her did.

“What are you called in this era?”

“Seina Yamada and you?”

“You've called me by my name already...”

“What?”

“It was unconsciously. My name is D.”

“D, nice to meet you D.”

“Yes. Now let's start ZINV.”

The internal structure deformed, and a maneuvering system was built around Seina.

“Put your hands on the control ball.”

He put both hands on the spheres immediately as D instructed. Because it closely resembled the system which the Kamidake also used, he immediately understood.

“Oh!?”

A basic control method was instantly installed into his brain.

* * * **Translators’ note:**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_Jimmu

ZINV (or Jinbu) and HIMC (or Himiko) are named after historical Japanese figures who are seen as demigods.

The first Emperor, Jimmu and the great Shamanistic Magician Queen, Himiko. Both are supernatural figures in Japanese history. Kajishima loves him some occultism lore. * * *

Suzuzuzuzuzuzuzuzunen. The Idol began to vibrate, and the villagers raised a shout of delight.

“Ohhhhhhhhhh, the God has risen! Now, everyone, get ready to evacuate!”

The idol stood up, effortlessly breaking the rock around him.

× × ×

“Okay, what ... ... is this smell!” Seina suddenly frowned. It wasn't coming from inside the cockpit, but from the outside of the dome. It was different from an odor. But Seina couldn't find the appropriate word other than smell to express it.

“It's human malice. The pirates wear it on themselves. But be careful. Don't be swallowed by it.”

“Malice ... ...?”

“... ... Big brother... ... brother! brother! Help Kashak! Help me! Help me! Help me! Please help!” At that time, Seina's consciousness heard Kusuro's screams ... ... No, he felt it and the unbearable odor accompanying it. It made Seina’s blood boil.

“Kusuro!” Seina cried out. ZINV was suddenly outside the dome. Behind him was a tunnel over 50 meters long.

“That smell ... ... Where did it go?”

“... ... over there!” ZINV thrust his right hand into the rock wall where it smelt bad and pulled it out...

“What's going on!?” The pirate’s heavy machinery was one third the size of ZINV. It was like a basketball held by an adult.

ZINV pulled off the machines legs like it was an insect and then finally crushed its torso with both hands.

“Ahh! Stop it! You're squishing me... ... ...” The microphone function of the machine was destroyed.

“No, stop!” D shouted. Seina stopped ZINV's hand.

“... ... What was I... huh !?” The unpleasant smell hadn't disappeared, but he noticed what he was doing.

A heavy machine jumped on ZINV with its legs causing supersonic vibrations. It had the power to easily crush rocks, but the exterior of ZINV wasn't rock.

“It seems that the armor has deteriorated considerably outside.” However, D had on a slight frown.

ZINV knocked itself back against the rock wall rubbing the machine between itself and the wall. The heavy machine tried to escape by hanging on the wall and a flash came from ZINVs hand. The heavy machine was cleanly cut into six pieces and fell to the ground. The unpleasant smell disappeared, which meant that the heavy machine pilot was dead.

“Ah!” Seina, who noticed it, cried out.

“For the time being, those who were hunting the villagers have all been eliminated,” D said.

“What? But I just started a moment ago?” He had just killed quite a few people. Although he had no discomforting feelings about it, just relief that the disgusting smell had disappeared.

“Seina, it's dangerous for to let yourself get carried away while being influenced by ZINV. Everything's alright now, but we need to be more careful about getting attacked. Our repair functions aren't working. It seems that a billion years really took a toll on things.”

“... ... What's that now?” Seina asked to confirm again, because he couldn't believe that statement.

“More enemies seem to be on their way.” D ignored Seina's question with a calm voice.

“… … Roger that!”

The threat hadn't been eliminated yet. Seina cleared his head and headed for the enemy approaching them.

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At the same time that the statue started to move, the Mikagami suddenly began to vigorously emit nerve lights.

“What's wrong Mikagami?”

“On that planet, someone's there! Oh my!” Mikagami's voice was embarrassed, but full of delight.

× × ×

Aboard the Hoystoke, the Captain was examining the feed of ZINV and heavy machinery fighting. “Is that one of those humanoid weapons the pirates have?”

“We're getting an emergency contact from a short distance. They want to talk to the captain.”

“Who could even be calling us...?” The secretary locked the entrance and the captain immediately prepared himself to receive communication. “Who are you?”

“Because this is an emergency, I will only be discussing the matter at hand.”

“Ah!?” The captain looked at Seto with eyes open wide in horror as she came on the screen. However, he was a soldier, so he straightened up and concentrated immediately on Seto's story.

“The GP Army and the flagship “Seniwa” are on their way. What has happened to Seina Yamada?”

“... ... It seems that Tarrant was chasing him, but he hasn't been caught yet ... ...” The captain forwarded the previous live image. “This thing is battling the units that were pursuing Mr. Yamada. I know nothing else, only where the Hoystoke is.”

“If possible, we recommend you protect Seina Yamada. If that's impossible, we recommend you escape quickly!”

“We'll do our best”

“Thank you.” Seto's communication dropped and the captain looked at his secretary.

“What do you think?”

“Kara Yoichi must want to cut off the influence of Taima-sama and Nakita-sama, and there's a high possibility that Seina Yamada is piloting that thing.”

“Then, the value of making the shipment has evaporated.” It was now known to Jurai, the plans to build a new ship with the Daedalus’ data was in trouble. “Prepare for withdrawal, call those outside back immediately.”

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“That's ... ... one of Renza's giant humanoid weapons! What is that doing here?” Tarrant's headquarters’ command center was in a state of panic.

“I don't understand. All those who entered the cave have been wiped out, what's going on ...”

“What about Seina Yamada?”

“It's unknown what happened to him! We need reinforcements!”

“I understand, stall for as long as possible!” Tarrant cut off communications.

“Arrange for reinforcements quickly, hurry!”

“Postpone Reinforcements! Give priority to The Kamidake's transportation instead.” Tarrant interrupted the director's aide.

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“How is it going?” Tarrant contacted the engineering department.

“We're currently transferring the necessary items such as our research materials.”

“What do you think of that thing?”

“There's little information to judge it on from the situation ... ... But there's no doubt that it's a Renzan humanoid weapon.”

“Well, that's obvious. Hurry up and prepare for the transfer!” Tarrant was unhappy with the small talk he was hearing.

“Doctor Clay, have you seen this?”

“It resembles the humanoid weapon that the pirates use, but it's a completely different thing.”

“Why do you say that?”

“There's considerable age deterioration on the armor. Although it's impossible to specify a detailed age, it has to be millions to hundreds of millions of years old. It's just speculation, but it may be one of the things that founded the humanoid weapons of Renza. Perhaps a remnant of this place being a heritage site of the prehistoric civilization. Moreover, there's a high possibility that Seina Yamada is on board.”

“Why? Why do you say that?”

“It's fighting in the GP Combat style.”

“... ... Huh! Can you do something about this?”

“If the battleship's main guns hit this spot directly, it may do something... or not. Either way it looks like there's no time to know for sure.” The base swayed greatly as Clay spoke.

“What! What's that!?”

“We're checking on it! Wait a moment!”

On the security camera, ZINV had finished battling with the heavy machinery and began to enter the base.

“We have about ten minutes before that thing gets in here!”

“Shoot! Shoot!” Heavy machinery was sent at ZINV, but they had no effect on its armor. ZINV easily crushed them. ZINV was too strong. The armor of the heavy machinery was like a soap bubble to it.

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“ZINV, calm down please.” Occasionally, D chimed in, but the smell of the opponents offended ZINV. Seina's fighting instinct seemed to be putting it into a frenzy. Especially, the smell he sensed coming from inside.

(There's no doubt that Tarrant is in there) Seina had felt that malice many times. It was the first time he sensed it in the form of a smell, but it was Tarrant’s. Even though the enemies in front of him had a smell it wasn't as intense as Tarrant's.

“Seina, the people in the village!” Reflected on the monitor was the villagers who were worshiping ZINV.

He noticed Kusuro. “So, he came out ok ... that's good.” That lightened his heavy heart. “Okay! ... D, can you break into an enemy base computer?”

“The basic system is the same as what I'm used to, so probably.”

“Okay!” ZINV soared high into the sky in one leap. The next moment after viewing the enemy base, ZINV was inside the base itself.

“D, find the position of the Kamidake and Fuku!”

“Roger that! ... Oh no! I had to stop accessing it.” D said oddly happily.

“What, what's wrong?”

“I was stopped by Ms. Mitsuki.”

“Ms. Mitsuki? What are you saying!?”

“Seina Yamada!” Tarrant was displayed on the monitor.

“Kirche!!”

Tarrant had Kirche tied up in front of him. “I know that you're in there. Kirche and the terminal body of Kamidake are in my possession.”

“D!”

“I can't break the access lock!” D said, Seina clenched his teeth.

“Come out of there. If you don’t, I'll add Kirche and the terminal to my body count. If you surrender, I'll keep them alive. They won't be free but at least their lives will be saved.”

“Owaaaaaaaaaaaah.” ZINV moaned.

“That won't work Seina! I don't care what happens to me ... ... But you care what happens to her!” Tarrant grabbed Kirche roughly.

“Stop it!”

“... ... Then hurry up!” Tarrant smiled as if he had won.

“.....” Seina's advantage was gone. He either had to give himself up or kill Tarrant at the expense of his colleagues. (At worst, even if I die here, Tenchi will get my message on Earth and Washu is over there.)

“... ... D, can you handle things while I'm gone?” Tarrant knew Seina was inside of ZINV, but he didn't know about D.

“Okay, leave it to me.” Seina didn't know if she understood his intentions, but her response somehow assured him. As the front of the cockpit opened, Acha and D disappeared.

Seina headed out. There was a small handle to open the cockpit. It was a physical escape hatch that could be used in case of an emergency, he used it and was lowered to the floor below by wires.

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“Hey, did you hear? Seina Yamada was caught!” On the monitor of the Hoystoke was a guard in Tarrant's base.

“Whoa, are you serious?”

“You can't make this kind of thing up.”

A voice interrupted his communication. “What's that!?”

Chapter Seven: Fuku and Clones

“It's been a long time hasn't it!” Tarrant looked Seina in the face as he jabbed him hard in the stomach.

“Gwaaa!” Seina fell down holding his stomach.

“Seina!”

“Fwahahaah ... ... It's ok, don't get up, you won't be able to soon anyways.” Seina looked at Tarrant with a look of resentment as blood flowed from his mouth. Tarrant on the other hand looked quite happy.

“You've found something quite interesting, what is that?”

“The Wau's ... ... it's their village idol, it was buried in the ground with them.”

“So, it's a buried treasure that one of those mongrels found, what an interesting toy.” Tarrant pulled his gun suddenly and fired at Kirche.

Seina tried to overcome the pain in his stomach, but he couldn't move.

Luckily, she wouldn't die unless he hit her core.

“Gaaaaaah! Tarrant! You bastard!” Seina tried to jump Tarrant, but Tarrant's soldiers grabbed him and held him in place.

“Uhuhuhu, that's a nice face you’re making. I've wanted to see your face like that for a while now.”

“Don't kill her... ... It's me you want right?”

“I'm not going to kill her; I'm just playing with her like the little toy she is. Her body is your NB, right? She feels no pain, they do however...”

A monitor showed Fuku and her frightened clones, among them was the body of one of the clones which had been dissected.

“If you resist, I'll make sure they end up like that dead one.”

“Grrrrrr!”

Tarrant, who confirmed that Seina had quit resisting, took out a knife.

“Now Kirche. Cut off one of Seina Yamada's fingers with this.”

“Is this what you plan to make me do!? You should just kill me now! I won't do such a thing!”

“Doing it won't help extend your life, but suppose that I extend his life one day for one finger?”

“What!?” Kirche looked at Seina's surprised face, she immediately shook her head.

“No, that's not going to ... ...”

“Kirche, please.” Seina quietly said looking at the clones on the monitor.

If Kirche refused, the clones would be killed. Of course, once Seina died there was no guarantee that Kirche and the clones wouldn't be next, but at least she could buy them some time.

Clink! Kirche picked up the knife thrown in front of her eyes with trembling hands. She got up slowly. Tears were falling from Kirche's eyes apologetically.

Seina watched her with a calm expression, but that was not much fun for Tarrant.

“How does it feel to be hurt by the hands of a loved one?” He said to provoke Seina.

“You're a demon!” Seina sent Tarrant a glare full of anger.

“Uhuhuhuhu.” For Tarrant, that was what he had expected. He was happy. (I have to be careful not to carelessly kill him just yet.) This was still the prologue for Tarrant, just hors d'oeuvres. More terrible and cruel torture awaited in his plans. Tarrant's excitement was getting bigger as he thought about it. It wasn't long before he felt such pleasures.

Kirche knelt slowly before Seina and lifted the knife high. She had to cut it off without fail with a single blow to prevent Seina from feeling pain for too long. But as she raised the knife to slash down Kirche's hand stopped.

“What's wrong?” Tarrant said with a dissatisfied look.

“Oh!” Kirche closed her eyes and swung the knife down at Seina's fingers.

“… … I found it!”

The knife Kirche swung down stopped several millimeters before Seina's finger. Kirche collapsed to the ground like a puppet with its strings cut and NB returned to its spherical shape.

“Kirche ... ...!” Seina shouted at the NB in front of him, he could smell a bad smell that burned the inside of his nose. “What is that smell...” Seina stared at NB who lay there unmoving.

“Damn! What a useless girl!” Tarrant was angry that Kirche hadn't gone through with his demands.

Suddenly a terrible tremor hit the entire base.

“What's that? What's going on?”

“Tarrant, the Kamidake has started!

“Fumaga Oh Oh Oh oh! Migua! Mi Gayo Ooooo!” A roaring sound filled the area.

“You idiot! I told you to keep the ships terminal body frozen ... ...” A large explosion sounded, and tremors occurred, the monitors all disappeared one after another as panic broke out.

“What did you do? Seina Yamada Aaaaaaaaaagh!” Tarrant shot at Seina. But the moment before it hit, Seina disappeared without a trace.

“What! Where did they go? What's happening?” Tarrant was surprised.

Tarrant, who had a good sense danger, quickly ran to the evacuation transfer gate.

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“Ououoooo!” Suddenly, the shield of the ZINV's cockpit closed, shaking off one of the soldiers who was trying to peek inside of it.

Seina was transferred inside and materialized as soon as the shield was closed.

“How did I get into ZINV's cockpit!?” He asked, confused.

However, there was no answer from D, although Acha was still in there in a time-frozen state.

“D, where are you!?” He touched the control ball, but there was no reaction. But ZINV knew what to do, it jumped to the large central hangar and headed to the terminal room where Dr. Clay resided.

VYONG!

ZINV slowly thrust its left hand into the wall. It was if someone had put their hands into water. Ultra-high frequency vibrations caused the wall to melt and collapse around its hand like sand. When it took out its hand, three Fuku clones were in its palm.

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“Things are getting too busy around here. That young man is quite the troublemaker.” Clay said as he walked along the aisle while complaining. Contrary to what he was saying he found it quite interesting. Although the bulkheads were closed, they opened as the Clay approached, as if they were guiding him. The doors closed after he went through them. Clay started a monitor while walking and accessed Tarrant's hidden accounts.

“Oh yes ... The basic fee is more than necessary for my business expenses, and don't forget my consolation fee.” He said to the mysterious program that maneuvered its hand into the wallet and withdrew half of the balance of Tarrant's hidden account.

“Good ... Now … …” Clay came out from the transfer gate and looked up at the Hoystoke in front of him.

“Hmm, it seems that you’re ready to set sail.” The program confirmed to Clay who saluted before it.

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“Miah!” The three Cabbits, which were transferred by the jewel in the left of its chest, dropped on Seina's head one after the other. One jumped onto the console in front of Seina, one caught onto his shoulder and the other scurried over to the opposite shoulder,

“Miah!” The last one on his right shoulder let out its sharp nails.

“Ouch! Why did you do that ... ... Are you mad? Why?” Seina was puzzled by the reaction of the three cabbits.

“Miah, Miaamiah!” The one on the console raised its paw, but Seina didn't understand why.

“What are you trying to say?”

The monitor started abruptly; D was projected.

“D! Where have you been?”

“I will give you the details later. Ms. Fuku is over there.”

“Fuku?”

A beam of fire penetrated the inside of the wall facing ZINV, a big hole opened up from the blast. The will of ZINV and Seina synchronized, and they instantaneously teleported to where Fuku was.

“Fuku!” Seina quickly called for Fuku who was transferred to the cockpit.

“Mya ... ... Mia aaa aa ah!” While shedding tears, Fuku swung her paws towards Seina.

As Seina held Fuku, she rubbed her head against Seina's cheek.

“Myang ... ...”

The Three clones watched the situation with a smile.

“Mia!” Fuku and Seina smiled. However, there were things to be dealt with.

“D, do you know where Kirche is?”

“That person is right in front of you Seina.”

“... ... Right ... In front?”

“Mia!” One of the clones smiled and raised her paw.

“I moved Kirche's data to the clone.”

“You moved her data?” Seina was puzzled but remembered that Kirche had suddenly collapsed like a puppet whose strings had broken.

“… …Really?” Seina asked, D looked at him oddly.

“I understand, I believe you D...” Seina breathed a sigh of relief, but quickly tightened his face. “Find the spot where Kirche and I were.”

“… … Roger that.”

As soon as the place where Seina was held was displayed on part of the main monitor, Seina released a single low-power plasma bullet towards it. And one towards the place where the clones were held.

“Cremation?” D meant, both to keep what was on NB confidential, and to cremate the dissected Fuku clone.

“Yeah ... ... There's nothing else we can do for it, let's clean up now.”

Fuku and Kirche agreed there was no intense hatred seething in Seina anymore, but his anger against Tarrant was another matter.

× × ×

“Show me Seina Yamada!” Tarrant, who ran into the Captain's room yelled to the bridge of the Daedalus. “Is the Kamidake still locked down!?”

“Currently, but the Kamidake is trying to destroy the barrier. The interior of the barrier has reflected its attack, but the tremendous amount of energy it's hitting it with is quite compressed ... It's getting more and more powerful as we speak. It might reach critical levels soon if this keeps up!”

“What a beast!”

That level of energy would have evaporated a ship like the Daedalus but nevertheless, the hull of the Kamidake could withstand that level of energy.

“What about that humanoid machine?”

“It seems that they're attacking the area where Clay was messing with the terminal bodies.”

“Where is Clay?”

“His status is unknown.”

“Chhhh! ... ... We only have a short time before that ship gets free, ready everyone to attack Seina Yamada.”

“Roger that!”

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“One kilometer ahead, a ship of 200 meters is rising. I can confirm there are many others.” D warned.

One Space Pirate Battleship after another took to the air from one of the underground hangars.

“I'm sensing a high lever energy reaction, I'll attack!”

“Good!” Seina felt an unpleasant and strong smell from his surroundings. He noticed that there was something that emitted an odor bad enough to pinpoint it even when surrounded by that smell. “Tarrant!” He had rescued both Kirche and Fuku. There was no need to endure Tarrant for any longer. (He's not getting away this time ... ...)

He could not forgive the misery caused by Tarrant anymore. Seina had twice tasted the fear of death thanks to him. Considering the people who were killed feeling that fear, he could no longer accept letting Tarrant live. Seina was not a saint nor was he still a child. He could not allow Tarrant to bring any more pain and sorrow to the world and he was in a position where he had the option to stop him. He wouldn't have been able to forgive himself for not taking it.

“Go.” ZINV lunged at the unpleasant smell. “Don't let Tarrant escape.” Seina decided.

ZINV jumped and instantaneously approached the pirate battleship in front of him and swung its right hand down. The pirate battleship bent in half and fell to the ground. The battleship was over 200 meters big while ZINV was only about 30 meters.

“There's more ships coming out at eleven o'clock!” ZINV went and destroyed two more.

“Twelve o'clock, high energy, main class!” A super gravity bullet launched from ZINV's right hand. When it touched the tip of the pirate battleship it compressed into a ball and fell to the ground. The rest of the ships began firing at ZINV... However, ...

“No more right-hand gravity bullets can be launched!”

“What!?” The battle had just started and now it seemed that there were error messages displayed one after another on the monitor.

“Both the outer armor and internal structure seems to have deteriorated severely with age. The restorative nano fiber system isn't working either.”

“But we've just started ...”

“It's no use, all offensive systems are offline.” D said in a calm voice.

“Okay... ... can we use the left hand's dimensional vibration wave blade, or the high-power laser, or the plasma bullets?” These too were damaged.

“All anti-ship weapons, are offline.”

The other ships noticed that ZINV was not moving and in bad shape. They began to concentrate their attacks using bombs and missiles, but it wasn't very effective.

“We only have one remaining weapon ... ...”

“What else is there?” Seina looked at D's monitor with expectation.

“Dr. Sanada always said that the last weapon was courage.”

“What?” At that time, Seina thought that idea was no good.

“That is to say that hope shouldn't be thrown away.”

“I'm not sure how that's going to help us...” Seina murdered.

“Left leg knee joint had broken as well as the left wrist joint.” D said in an oddly calm tone.

“Thank you for the calm report.” The murderous intentions and impatience of Seina came out a bit in his tone. “... but I guess it makes sense ... ...” ZINV had sat unmaintained for nearly a billion years. It made sense that it was in bad shape.

“I'm afraid we have to retreat ... How do we get out of here?”

“Well, the core unit ejection device has begun working on its own. This seems bad.”

“It what!?” Seina panicked.

“When the main unit becomes inoperable, there is a device that ejects the core computer unit. It wasn't originally attached to ZINV, but ... ... Dr. Sanada added it.”

“What happens when the core unit ejects?”

“We won't be able to move of course.”

“Well duh.”

Both Seina and two clones that weren't D looked worried. The console deformed and the core unit began protruding from behind Seina's chair.

“Wait a moment! Stop it!”

“We've already entered the ejection sequence!”

“Stop speaking so calmly!” Seina held onto the core as he screamed.

The two clones did the same.

However, the front shield began to open.

“Ten seconds before ejection, nine, eight, seven, six ...”

“D! Stop it somehow!”

“That's impossible. Four, three ... “

“So why are you so calm? Do something!”

“... ... two, one, ...”

“We're going to die!” Suddenly the unit stopped protruding.

“Ejection stopped. It seems to be damaged by deterioration at well.”

“What's wrong with you!? Close the shield!” The Attacks on ZINV were still ongoing. Outside it looked like hell from the heat of the plasma.

“We're safe. There's an electromagnetic shield placed around the cockpit, but I don't know how long it will last.”

“Mia!” Fuku cried.

“I'm reading an external high level energy shield. Is that one doing it?”

“Mia!” Fuku said proudly.

“Wow. That's amazing.” The D clone petted Fuku's head.

Although Fuku's energy shield was taking the attacks, the temperature in the cockpit was rapidly rising due to the energy from the attacks.

× × ×

“The Humanoid's movement has stopped!” The Daedalus operator cried; Tarrant's face still looked worried.

“Don't think about the damage to the base! Everyone attack! Go all out!”

“Tarrant! The materials we requested, and the researchers have arrived!”

“Okay! ... I got it! Get to this first!” Tarrant noticed the arrival of the researchers in the upper stratosphere.

“The Kamidake's barrier is critical!”

A shock wave spread from the ground with a tremendous flash. Explosions and flames blew up from the opening of the base, there was no doubting that the entire base had been destroyed by the blast.

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“Uuwaaaaaaa!” Outside, a Wau on a rocky mountain fell over. Luckily Tarrant's base absorbed the energy of the blast and shot it upward, so it was the only thing damaged, but the shock wave caused a category 4 earthquake.

× × ×

“Half of the ships that hadn't take off were destroyed in the base. But all our battleships in the sky are fine!” They were made to fight in space so most of the ships were not harmed by the indirect blast.

“There’s been a collapse inside. The underground transport passage seems to have collapsed.”

“What's the status of the Kamidake!?”

“I'm reading its energy reaction, but it doesn't appear be moving. It must have been caught in the collapse.”

“Alright! Prepare the Daedalus for emergency departure! Focus all combat ready ships on the humanoid and attack! They won't be able to use the Kamidake if we destroy that humanoid first!”

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“Seina, please put the core unit back. I'm going to restart the ZINV system.”

“Roger that!” Seina desperately pushed the core in. The console returned to its original position and the shield closed. The room temperature also returned to normal.

“Waaaaaaah!” Seina shouted in surprise.

They took a direct hit from the pirate battleship. The armor on ZINV broke off. Both legs were also damaged by the impact.

“Miah!” Fuku cried.

The Kamidake attacked from underground with a blast that came up from the ground and hit one of the battleships. Once it passed through the ground, its power had decayed so it didn't destroy the ship.

The pirate ship resumed attacking ZINV.

“We can't avoid it!”

“Miah!” The Kirche clone talked to Fuku about something.

“Miaamau!” Whatever the Kirche clone told Fuku put a big smile on her face.

However, ... “A large battleship is emerging.”

“It's the Daedalus!” The Daedalus launched from an underground hangar and its front armor lifted to charge a blast from its main cannon.

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“Fire with full power! Burn out the gun barrel if you have to! Maximum power!” Tarrant glared at ZINV. If he could have the Daedalus’ main cannon hit them directly, it would destroy ZINV for sure.

“The Kamidake is emitting high levels of energy from underground!”

“Keep focused! Pay attention to the humanoid only!”

“But ... The Kamidake is coming up to the surface! It's releasing enough energy to melt the ground!”

The ground turned red and eventually whitened as it melted. The Kamidake came up from the ground as it melted.

“Hurry! Fire the main cannon!”

“It’s still only 60 percent charged!”

“I don't care! Shoot!”

The Energy released from Daedalus took a direct course for ZINV who was being attacked by several ships.

“Miao Oh Oh Oh oh!” But the Kamidake jumped in front of the blast.

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“The Kamidake!?” The Kamidake appeared before ZINV, protecting it from Daedalus’ blast. Kamidake's armor was damaged, but it suddenly started fixing itself, and something surprising happened in the cockpit.

“Myan Miau,” Fuku said. As a light shined on her, it reminded Seina of when the Kamidake and Mizuki fused on Jurai.

“... are you talking to ZINV?”

“Mia!” The Kirche clone said.

“Mia!” The mysterious clone said.

“Well then, I'll help you, too.” D said. “Myan!”

“Mia-aa-a-a-a-an-an,” they all cried in harmony. The light pulsations quieted down and suddenly the sound and sights of the blasts from the pirate ship disappeared.

“Light Hawk Wings!?” Tarrant could not believe the sight in front of him. There were Light Hawk Wings shining in front of the Kamidake and they were defending ZINV from all attacks from the pirates.

“Is Kamidake creating them...?” The Light Hawk Wings that it used against the Big Da Ruma should have been created by the linked royal ship instead of the Kamidake. He had heard no reports of the Kamidake being able to use Light Hawk Wings on its own. “Has something happened to the Kamidake? ... ... there's no way!” A cold sweat flowed down Tarrant's body. His line of sight was directed to ZINV.

(Dr. Clay said that thing might be the founder of the humanoid weapons of Renza.) Tarrant remembered that he had heard a certain rumor. He remembered hearing that some of the Renza humanoids had shields of light that were unbreakable. It was a kind of urban legend but seemed to make the most sense in explaining what he saw before him.

“We have to get out of here before their gravity weapons come back on like ... ... prepare for rapid departure! Emergency hyperspace jump, we have to get away from the gravity zone!”

At Tarrant's orders, the Daedalus began to rise.

“Tarrant-sama! I'm sensing the gravitational shock from ships jumping out in satellite orbit. It's the GP army.”

“Open up personal communications! Hurry!”

“What on Earth is going on?!” Commander Yoichi came up on the screen. “Have all of your ships stop their attack immediately! Otherwise, you will all be destroyed.”

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“No way, what is that over there by the Kamidake, is that Yamada ... ...?” Commander Yoichi was puzzled.

Tarrant was trying to destroy his own base and the object everyone was firing at was being treated as a threat by the Daedalus. For Tarrant, ZINV was more a threat than the GP army fleet in front of him.

“If we don't, the Kamidake will escape!” They didn't give a damn about Tarrant and the Daedalus being sunk but the Kamidake getting away was a problem for sure.

“I'll give you ground backup. Let's annihilate them! Maximum fire power!” Many battleships warped out near the ground.

“D, get us ready! Target Tarrant!”

“Miau mao Miao Ooh Ooh!” Fuku and the clones cried as strings of light danced around them.

"ZINV Self-repair function regeneration."
As they watched, the ZINV's interior mechanisms changed in color. The wear, damage and lost parts began to regenerate.
It was a wild dance of lights and the voices of Fuku and the clones.
"Data load. Constructing force field plant."
D said, and the Kamidake's crystal plate broke into nanoparticles.
MEOWMEOWOOOOOOOOOOOO!

“Data loading. Formation ready now.” When D said that, the crystal plating of Kamidake decomposed into nano level particles.

(What going on?? I have so many questions, but Fuku and the clones seem to be concentrating on something, they're not being very talkative.)

”ZINV's self-repair function is regenerating!” The color of ZINV's internal mechanisms changed.

“First, we will restructure the force field and restore weapons equipment then the body, and the mechanical parts will be restored and reproduced.”

“... ... Amazing ... ... It's just like magic.”

Various parts rose in the air, and it seemed like ZINV was aging in reverse as it repaired itself to a brand-new state.

“Mia!”

“Roger that. I'll assist with the exterior construction.”

Small hexagonal parts covered the internal structure one by one like scales. At first, they were the same color as the plating of the Kamidake, then they changed to light gray. Regeneration of the whole body began to occur even within the cockpit. It looked like everything had a new coat of paint.

“Uhm, are we okay to stay here while this happens?”

The restoration area was creeping towards Seina and there was nowhere else for him to go anyways. He gently tip toed over the part undergoing repair over to the part that was already done. He figured that since Fuku was standing there, it was safe.

The regeneration of the outer armor ended quickly while he watched. Everything now had a beautiful sparkle; it was very different from when he found it buried in the ruins.

“Miao! Mio Oooo Ooh Ooh!” Fuku meowed as dancing light gathered around her.

In front of him the core part of Kamidake was floating where the plate part had disappeared. It flew over to ZINV and was compressed a little and then it was sucked into the jewels on ZINV's right shoulder.

× × ×

“Oooo Ooo!”

A hexagonal geometric pattern emerged on the body surface of ZINV.

“Checking each part.”

A tremendous number of monitors were launched one after another in the cockpit. As they went away, the patterns on the body’s surface also disappeared. Perhaps it was some sort of checking system.

The pirate battleships also stopped attacking and were staring at the scene as if they had forgotten to escape. It was too mysterious a sight to run away from.

“Did you finish?”

“Miah,” Fuku and the clones were looking up at Seina as the ship began shaking again from enemy blasts.

Seina put his hand on the control ball.

“Oh!!” It was as if electricity was running through his body or rather it is more accurate to say he was finally awake. “... Oh, I understand, I know everything, after such a long time, what we are ... Yeah... alright.” Tears fell from his eyes. As the control ball responded, a beautiful seven colored light violently danced.

“Mia!” The excited Fuku climbed on Seina’s shoulder.

“Acha.” Seina said.

Acha's time freeze was lifted. Naturally, Acha was unaware of what was going on. Seina gently smiled at her as she looked around strangely.

“Hero? ... ... are we dead?”

“No... We’re inside the idol.”

“So, we were sent to God?”

“No we’re alive, I'll tell you more later.” Seina took Fuku off his shoulder and handed her to Acha.

Fuku smiled at Acha, Acha, who seemed uneasy was relieved and smiled back.

“Wow, cute.”

”Her name is Fuku ... Come here, come here and help me protect the villagers.”

“What?”

“Yes!”

“High energy reaction from a large number of ships in satellite orbit!” D said, still with a calm tone.

“I know, and Tarrant is over there!” The pirate battleship that was watching ZINV restore itself quickly began to withdraw.

ZINV moved slightly above the sky, he turned the left hand up as if to draw a circle in the sky. Then, as if to strike a fist in the sky, it extended its right arm vigorously into the sky and opened its palm.

“Ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!” The space was distorted as ZINV shouted. It looked as if someone put a fisheye lens in the sky. The center part became dark and the next moment, with a roaring sound and heat, the sky and the surroundings became pure white as if wrapped in light.

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“What! What happened!?” Commander Yoichi got up from his chair on the battleship “Queen” and went to the big screen overlooking the bridge and stared at the giant central monitor with a feeling that he couldn't believe his eyes.

“A sudden high mass point has appeared on the planetary surface! It’s a micro black hole!”

“No way, we've barely even observed those in space before.”

“The injection energy has almost disappeared!”

“I can't believe it. There is no change in the atmosphere on the planet. Is that energy completely gone?”

“The influence of energy has disappeared. I'll try to get a clear image of the surface.”

“Enlarge that image!” When the enlarged image from the surface was projected on the monitor everyone went silent.

“A large ... ... humanoid weapon? Is that from Renza?” The commander noticed the Light Hawk Wings that ZINV wore. “Preparing for a second round of fire!” As the commander shouted, ZINV disappeared.

“Target Lost!”

“We can't find it! Where did it go? I don't understand.”

Suddenly, the large warship shook as though it was hit by a huge earthquake, and the commander collapsed on the floor. All sensor-related monitors disappeared one after another. However, since the flagship of the military was equipped with more kinds of sensors than usual, part of it captured a certain phenomenon.

“A target is jumping in close to the fleet! Its high energy and weight is causing us to shake!”

“Attack it!”

“It’s too close to the fleet! Ninety-eight eight percent of the fleet will be destroyed if we do that, we can't avoid it!”

“Try to attack the target!”

“Incoming message from the target! It reads ZZZ!” The operator shouted to commander Yoichi. “Seto Kamiki Jurai's declaration of indiscriminate destruction ...?”

One of the fleet deputy commanders felt a cold sweat all over his body.

And they felt the eyes of ZINV that shouldn't have been visible directing murderous intent to their ship. Needless to say, it was obvious what would happen if they neglected the warning.

“It's fine! Shoot!” Yoichi shouted out in fear.

Now that his ambition, position, and honor were about to collapse, all he cared about was victory.

“No commander!” All the adjutants who were on the bridge seized commander Yoichi.

“Please stop! It's impossible to win! Even with the fleet firing all at once, we must power down all systems immediately!”

“You traitors! I'll have you all courts marshaled for this ... ...!”

“We don't care!”

“Oooouuuuooooooooooooooooooooooo!!” Commander Yoichi's words were drowned out by ZINV's roar. The hull also began to vibrate.

“What's going on?”

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“Did they give up ...?” ZINV and Seina synchronized, and he could feel what it was sensing. Not just the malice of Tarrant, or what was going on with the commander of the GP warship fleet. No, he felt the consciousness of every crew member around him.

But Tarrant's malice was special. Seina, burst out into uncontrollable anger against that malice.

“The Daedalus has entered hyper-space.”

“Don't let it escape!”

However, the fleet formed a barrier around Daedalus to keep them from directly attacking.

“Jump!” ZINV emitted a bust of light. Just like Gai Volt, it flew with great agility and avoided all the ships. They arrived where the Daedalus was, but they were still one step behind. In front of ZINV, the Daedalus had disappeared.

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“It’s useless! The Daedalus has jumped!” A breath of disappointment leaked out from the bridge operator. It was natural that most of those who were aboard were those who wanted to have nothing to do with Tarrant and the commander's back-room dealings. A small number of people had even lost their friends and acquaintances to Tarrant in the past. The only one upset even slightly about Tarrant's escape was Commander Yoichi.

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“Miah!” The mysterious clone glared at the space where the Daedalus had disappeared.

“Yeah ... I still have them! I won't let them get away!” Seina muttered, as if to respond to it. “Let's go!!”

ZINV let out a roar and pulled its right arm behind it. It grabbed one of the Light Hawk Wings and materially converted it to wrap around its right arm. Then ZINV reached into the space where the Daedalus had been and trust its right arm into hyper space. It pulled the Daedalus out of Hyperspace and crushed it in its palm.

Chapter Eight: The End of the Conspiracy

“Well, what on earth is going on?” Amane asked. It was well understood that Airi and Mikami had done something behind the scenes and the Kamidake and Fuku were used as a decoy, but they didn't know what was going on with Seina.

“There's no doubt that we were used too, they already knew Seina's whereabouts too.”

“In order to inform those who used Kamidake and Fuku?”

“Ms. Kiriko, it seems that the GP army ship “Queen” is headed in our direction”

“Aaaah! That's Kara Yoichi's fleet ... ... What is he up to!”

“If Nakita is involved in this case, this is probably related to the GP and GP army's funding.”

“Seto is involved too, no doubt.”

“Her ploy must have used the Kamidake as a decoy ... ... but Fuku and Seina got involved ... ... oooo when I get my hands on her...!”

–––Oh! Is that? It is! Mizuki cried.

“Mizuki what's up?” Mizuki didn't answer Kiriko's question, the ship jumped out from super space navigation to normal space instead. Kiriko and the others checked their current position. They were on Mizuki's bridge. The layout was similar to the Kamidake #1, and the placement of the girls was similar. The operator seat was for Kiriko since she was captain, everyone else sat in front of her.

“Current position is within the target solar system, near the fifth planet.”

“I'm reading a high energy output and a spatial quake at the target point ... The triple Z has been deployed!”

“Is the quake from the Mikagami!?”

“No, it's something different ... what is that?”

“Kiriko-sama! Something’s coming out of hyperspace, it's close!” Hakuren announced, the Mikagami suddenly jumped out near Mizuki.

“Hello Seto, what's going on?”

“Quickly! Come here. Dock Mizuki in the pool.” Seto instructed. Kiriko did so without hesitation.

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“Mi, Mikami! Why are you here!?” Taima yelled! Mikami silently displayed the nameplates of his comrades.

“What is the meaning of this!?” Taima quickly contacted the people on the nameplates, but no one answered.

Kara Yoichi was the only one left, but a mark that indicated he was away on a special mission was floating on his name plate. It was an indication that a massive battle or a similar situation had occurred.

“What is he doing, what is going on!?”

“Taima, you're not in a position to know that anymore.” Mikami's tone was calm, but she was talking down to Taima.

“Mikami! I'm a candidate to be the next president of Kuramitsu's Elder's Association! Don't be rude!”

“You would be if you hadn't committed a serious offense against the Galactic Federation, Seniwa, the GP and the GP military organizations ... ... In particular, your behind the curtains dealing with Shank was overkill, Taima. It made all the witnesses and evidence we gathered a huge waste of time. However, if you would like to bow out with dignity worthy of Seniwa and honoring the army, then I suggest you retire soon.”

“What!?” Taima realized immediately that it would be useless to try to escape. “I have no regrets. I wanted Seniwa to be a country equivalent to Jurai, like it was before. And I wanted to make the army whole again ... ... to restore it to the glorious organization built by its original master.”

“The nature and role of Seniwa and Jurai are different, just as the GP and the Academy are different. Juraians are slaves to the Royal Trees despite their power, for us there is no such limit. The fact is, that when my father was already building the GP Army, the framework of the world had grown much larger. Jurai had been separated from that framework and Seniwa wanted to assimilate it. Seniwa became the organization itself, so it's impossible to restore it to its former state, it never quit being that.”

“Well, what about those who built it!” The army wasn't as important as it used to be. For those who knew the glory of it's past, it was very different after the change and it was difficult to accept that.

“Ideally the Military would be unnecessary.... its existence is only a necessary evil. You're acting like a child. We can walk on our own now, we don't need our parent's help to get around.”

“Don't be silly!” He said that not to Mikami, but to those who advocated that the military was unnecessary.

“Parents don't get mad at their children for being able to be independent, but there is no way that the essence of the thing called the army itself will never be unnecessary, their role just changes. We slowly adapted to the role of security maintenance and distribution, and then the GP took over almost all of that in almost all areas of the Galactic Federation. The military has

been absorbed into the framework of the GP. The GP has gotten dangerously big, it's dominating the world, but the Kuramitsu's role in it has become smaller and smaller."

"The fight between the new ways of things and the old ways is an eternal theme that has been around since creation. No matter how anxious we are about it, everything ends eventually. It's miraculous in a way."

"....." Finally, Taima went silent.

"What do you think of him, Taima ... ... How do you view Seina Yamada?"

"... I don't dislike him personally, if I had a chance, I'd do all the same things as him ... ... He has been given a great deal of power, not everyone can handle that. He seems to be doing the best he can to use the power he's acquired when he's given the chance. It's amazing that he hasn't been crushed by his own unreasonable bad luck, sometimes it seems like it's no big deal to him, he even uses it when he can ..." Taima's anger fell rapidly. He realized that Yamada Seina was just a boy who got caught up in his plans for glory. As an individual soldier, Seina and his career history were worthy of respect. He was glad to see such a wonderful newcomer join the ranks until he had become his enemy.

"Oh, yeah ... I guess an adult like me should protect a child like him ... ..." His viewpoint changed. Taima looked as if his soul had left his body. "I understand, I will withdraw from all my positions."

"Good."

"... ... Oh, and ... ... I'm sorry for involving Nakita."

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"Ha, huh, huh, huh, huh, hu ... ..." Tarrant breathed roughly. He had finally managed to escape. But he noticed the trembling of his ship wasn't stopping. His face distorted in horror. (... ... I was supposed to have the Kamidake! And Kirche! And Seina Yamada's life!) All his plans had blown up in his face. Tears spilled from his eyes. "You've got to be kidding me!" He banged his fist on the console over and over, took a deep breath and collapsed into his captain's chair "Seina Yamada! I will kill you. No matter what ... ...!!"

The Daedalus stopped suddenly. Tarrant was thrown forward, the inertial controls and safety devices failed to stop him completely and he banged into the wall with his robotic arm shielding him, but he was seriously injured. The other crew members looked like blood splattered flies on the wall.

"... ... ... What now?" Tarrant looked up at the monitor and couldn't say anything anymore. What he saw went beyond his tolerance. A huge hand engulfed the Daedalus.

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“Hey ... ... will someone tell me what the hell that is?” Kara Yoichi murmured, but not to anyone specifically. ZINV was on the screen dragging the Daedalus out of empty space about 400 meters away. It was difficult to recognize proportions in space, but from the contrast between ZINV and the Daedalus, the scene was clearly abnormal.

One of the adjutants looked at the chief operator, but he said nothing. The readings displayed on the monitor said everything there was to say as did the scene on the screen.

“In encounters with high-level dimensional life forms, phenomena that seem to break our physical laws are observed.”

“… … What are you saying?”

“They're going to have to rewrite the laws of physics themselves after this, even the physical laws that should be basic concepts are being violated ... I heard from a philosopher something like this happened once in the past, but I never thought I'd see it.”

“Tell the other ships to stop immediately and cease all attacks.”

“What!” They hesitated a moment before they stood down and silently stopped their efforts to object.

“... ... Commander ... I don't want to be a.... huh?”

“What!?” On the monitor, the Daedalus, which had been dragged out, was being compressed. Like ZINV’s right hand was swallowing its mass.

Giggitagi Gigi Gigi ... ... Gigi!” The vibrational sounds of Daedalus picked up by the sensors were those that people who live in space most physiologically disliked. It was the sound of “death” caused by a hull collapse.

Suddenly the Daedalus exploded, “Oh!” It spread like fireworks shot into space, and the residuals of the energy from that spread far and wide as if to celebrate ZINV's victory.

“Vuo! Vigao Oo Oo Oo Oo Oh oooh!” ZINV raised its right hand in victory and gave the roar of a champion.

“Well, that's the end of the Daedalus...” One of the adjutants muttered with deep emotion. Everyone belonging to the GP wanted to see that.

The roar of ZINV seemed to sublimate joy in the hearts of those who were there. But for Kara Yoichi, the feeling was different.

(We can't let Seina Yamada continue like this! It will be the death of us all!) “Is it possible to communicate with those riding in it?” Large humanoid weapons were used in Renza but as it had light hawk wings and used the “ZZZ”, there was a high possibility that they were from Jurai.

(That's right! Seina Yamada is probably on board, we need to capture him ...) Kara Yoichi smiled. “Capture those who are on that thing!”

“Capture?”

“It interfered with our duties, they obstructed public officials, they're using unknown weapons, and only a Royal Tree can generate Light Hawk Wings! They brought an unauthorized royal ship into this non-invasive zone without prior notification. That's a felony!”

One of the adjutants who was communicating with someone far away from the fight was brought closer to commander Yoichi.

“Commander! I have a message incoming from the Temporary General Commander of the GP Army Headquarters, Mikami Kuramitsu!”

“Mikami Kuramitsu ... ... Commander, what happened?” Kara Yoichi glared at the adjutant with blood-shot eyes.

“This hasn't been announced formally yet, but it seems that it has been decided that the Seniwan Elders Council President is officially Minami Kuramitsu.”

“But... T...Taima ... .”

“A retirement declaration has been issued and he has retired from all official duties.”

That meant that his conspiracy was revealed. Perhaps the other executives had also already been eliminated in the form of retirement. Of course, he was next.

“No, that's ... There's no way!”

“They said “The operation is over, please leave it to us to clean up afterwards!””

“.....” His plan and career were officially dead and buried.

“... I'm going to go rest in my quarters if anyone needs me.” The soldiers saluted the former commander with the highest gratitude as he left the bridge.

Chapter Nine: ZINV

“What is that thing?” Minaho, who had long worked under Seto, was confused as she turned towards Seto.

“It might be the founder of the humanoids of Renza. Normally a large humanoid shape is nothing but a waste offensively speaking. But it's perfect for establishing a religion, or a legend or a fable. It works better as a symbol. It's purely aesthetic.”

“Why is it here?”

“Who knows, but it's generating Light Hawk Wings, so it must be related to Jurai. I can't wait to study it.”

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One of the spaces fixed in the Mikagami was Seto's studio where information analysis equipment, a simple repair dock, and other things like that were located. ZINV was housed in the analysis dock there.

× × ×

Seina finished his examination in the medical room together with Fuku, and was moved to a waiting room, which looked like the lobby of a prestigious luxury hotel, where he played with Fuku and the others.

“Seina!” Kiriko came in to see him with tears in her eyes. She examined him up and down for wounds like a mother dog would her puppies.

Seina felt like he was back in the good old days again. Till the others came in.

“Oh, Seina ... ... Am I imagining things or are there four Fuku's on the sofa there?” Amane asked breaking the intimate moment between the two.

“There are really four of them, it's no illusion. The other three are clones that the Space Pirates made for research.”

“Clones? ... Oh, I see, only one has a jewel in her forehead, so it that one Fuku?” Fuku leapt towards Amane. Neiju was surprised but she approached Fuku and lifted her up.

“Miaa!”

“Oh Fuku! I'm so glad you're safe!” Everyone rushed to welcome Fuku back. However, they seemed confused as to how to deal with Fuku's clones. Seto emerged out of the crowd and pushed herself ahead of them.

“Even so ... for cloned newborn children, their reactions to things sure seem different from one another.”

“Oh, one of them is Kirche who was in NB and the other is a person in ZINV who is called D.”

“Kirche ... ... That Kirche?”

“Yes, the one on TV, that Kirche, I don't know why she was in my NB ... ...”

“Oh, uh, well... about that...” Both Seto and Kiriko looked away from Seina and gazed at the Kirche clone.

“Well, perhaps we should talk about the other one instead ... ...” Seto launched a medical record monitor and showed off the contents. “... By any chance is she the terminal form of ZINV? By that I mean is she the personality of it?”

“She's a different personality from ZINV, I found her in there alone, sleeping when I went inside, but I haven't heard anything detailed from her, I didn't have time to talk ...”

“Yes, I see ... ...” Seto was staring at the D cabbit. “What about the other cabbit?”

“… … … I don't know anything about it at all.” Seina thought hard but couldn't recall anything else.

“Nothing at all!?”

“Miki Steinbeck !?”
Monitors appeared over their heads like dialogue bubbles from a comic. D's appearance data was the first to appear. Next was Kirushe, and the last was a mysterious clone...

“No, I don't even know how this happened.”

“We need to investigate the situation in detail, I suppose we should just ask them. Will you cooperate with us?” Seto crouched and moved her face closer to the clones.

“Mya!” All three agreed, Seto launched the monitor.

“If you're a clone of Fuku, you should be able to access this link ... try this okay?” A monitor appeared as if it were a comic book speech balloon above each of the three cabbits.

First D's appearance data was displayed, next was Kirche, the last one was... ...

“Miki Steinbeck!” Everyone shouted her name in unison. Miki crossed her arms and looked at everyone with a slightly dissatisfied expression.

“... ... Miki ... ... senpai ...?” Seina was confused as was everyone else.

“Long time no see Seina.” Miki looked at Seina and smiled

“How?! I thought you died ...”

“Don't you remember what happened after I was attacked? ... To your NB?”

“What happened? .... Oh! Yes, I remember.” Seina remembered it suddenly transforming into a humanoid figure, and it tried talking to Seina. He remembered its face resembled Miki somehow.

”But how ... ...??”

”I didn't even know until this, but I’m an AI with an astral just like Kirche. Tarrant didn't know it either and ... Well, lots of things happened and I ended up in the network at his base, and then this happened... Do you understand?”

“Not really, I feel like you're leaving a lot of things out... ...”

“Well, the point is I'm still alive. Isn't that enough?”

“Uhm ... ... Well, yes. That's true.” He was convinced that she was definitely Miki.

“Hey Miki, was it by any chance Dr. Clay who moved your data to the clone?” Seto asked.

“Yeah, it wasn't cheap, but he saved us from Tarrant.”

“That's all you have to say about it?” Seto gazed at Miki.

“Yes, that's all.”

“... Well ... He'll do anything, if you can pay for it. You’re lucky he's always open to negotiations.”

“... ... I'm used to handling those kinds of people.” She meant her father, Hiroshi, of course, but the statement applied to most scientists.

“I see.” Seto made a wry smile without hesitation.

“Well, what else happened?”

“Before that I want to know about Acha ... where is the girl who was with us?”

“Oh, that lovely golden haired Wau?” Seto launched a monitor.

“Kyaaaaaa! So cuuute!” Seto’s chief officers cried out, as they played dress up with Acha. She had been bathed and was being carefully brushed, her golden hair was shiny and fluffier than before. Because she was trained to be a shrine maiden, she was used to being taken care of by someone, although she still seemed quite puzzled.

“So then what happened?”

“I became shrine maiden, and I locked hands with the brave hero, but since I'm still a child ... ... I only entered into a contract with him ... ...” Acha said shyly.

“But I'm glad to go with Seina, he's so brave!” The officers became overwhelmed by her cuteness and her sappy story.

Seto grinned at Seina. Kiriko looked stunned, but she understood more or less the situation from Acha's story.

“... ... ... But well ... ... I think that both the villagers and my mother are worried, so I'd like to see them again soon ...”

Seina could feel a pressure from the glares behind him. He felt like running away.

“Well ...” Seto quickly looked at Kiriko, Fuku and the clones. “We should hurry up and make that happen.” She decided to steer the conversation somewhere else. The Mikagami and Mizuki's arrival had delayed the GP investigators and they were still busy conducting investigations at the site of Tarrant's base.

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Seto's staff gave a tearful farewell to Acha. Seina and Acha had several guards, a medical team, and a joint GP and Juraian research team which went with them back down to the planet. First of all, in order to inform the villagers about what was going on and get their permission, Seina and others preceded to the village with a parade.

“Is... is this really okay?” The windows were big and the people inside were visible outside. However, Seina was more worried about the brittleness of the glass.

“This is made for parades for VIPs, it's much more robust than it looks, even a falling rock couldn't crush us, and we’re safer than in an armored car.” A guard told him.

“Although it might be impossible to escape if we become trapped inside, there's plenty of water food and air, and things to do to kill time in here.”

“Oh, is that so?”

They entered the cave where ZINV was formerly where they saw a light.

“Mother!”

Waus gathered in front of their mostly destroyed houses and the elders and Kusuro were there too. However, as soon as they saw the parade vehicle the villagers hid themselves to escape, leaving the elders behind, but the elders saw Seina and Acha and waved to them.

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The doctors and the research team that accompanied Seina were welcomed by the villagers after the elder informed them of what was going on.

The doctors started treating Kashak and the injured soon after. The research team surveyed around the dome, and a rescue team began searching for survivors and corpses beneath the rubble.

Seina, accompanied by the elder and Acha, headed for the back of the dome, and was guided to a small room on the third floor. There was an altar and a bed there, it was a place reserved for the shrine maiden and the brave hero.

“Acha can't return to this village anymore? ... What do you mean?” Seina raised his voice to the elder, but the elder looked around the room and sighed as he ignored him.

“If Kashak was doing well, I'd have her come here to help expand our blood line ...” That is to say, this room is where sex acts were supposed to be done.

“No thanks, I'm good... so why is Acha not allowed back to the village?”

“The shrine maiden can't live with the villagers. When she became a shrine maiden, her life became tied to our God and she's supposed to enter his world ... Kashak's shrine maidenship is done now, but the only reason she ever lived with us villagers was that we were in hiding.”

“But Acha is still ... ...”

“Of course, Kashak and those who served as shrine maiden can stay here now that they're done, but Acha was completely deified and became one with our god, and she made a contract with the brave hero, the two of you have to be together as one, it's wrong to divide you into two, it could cause the end of the world.” The elder stepped up and stared at Seina. “... ... If the brave hero stayed in this village permanently though, Acha could live here naturally. Acha is still young and can't work, but Kashak and the villagers could pick up the slack, kakakakaka!”

“So, you won't take her back? It may be difficult for you to comprehend, but that idol is similar to the flashlight that Kusuro had. It may seem like magic from your point of view, but it was still made by people, even your ancestors had the same power.”

“I know that.”

“Eh!?” The words of the elder were shocking.

“I'm the only one who knows that though. I went to the academy through correspondence classes.”

“What!?” The Academy had a long-distance curriculum that was free so that people in rural areas and those far from the academy could take classes. The content of the lessons was politically neutral and religiously/ ideologically unbiased, many of the pirate's children used it.

“We used to trade with those in space in the past, but when the pirates came here, we had to go into hiding and the long-distance transfer gate facility was destroyed. We used to use it to visit the other tribes that live a long way away, but we were isolated from them once the pirates came. As you probably noticed it wasn't exactly safe to go out traveling.”

“But I heard you had other travelers?”

“Very rarely the other tribes would send one of their adult males over here. Needless to say, it was hard to get here so they too were considered brave men.''

“I see.... so, you knew about that idol as well?”

“It's something the pirates in Renza use. This place was where the original owner of the planet was doing excavations a long time ago, we came here when they were still excavating.”

“That reminds me, I heard that he claimed that the prehistoric civilization was born here, but after his death there was no detailed documentation left ... ... and I couldn't find anything in the foundation's simple survey. Do you know anything about that?”

“That's probably intentional. Once he found the idol, he decided to keep things quiet. If he announced it, he would have gotten the honor of finding it, but the ruins and all the materials excavated would have been taken and he and all of us would have been kicked out of this solar system and labeled illegal occupants. It just wasn't worth it.”

“And then the space pirates came, and everyone migrated down here?”

“And since then, we've been isolated from others and we couldn't keep the village in a peaceful state without our religion ... without access to the outside we couldn't do any maintenance and things started to break down, it was a real problem. That flashlight was once new, but it's deteriorated quite a bit.”

Actually, the transfer gates were also installed by the elder.

“I thought there were only 3 generations here max?”

“Well, I've been Bio-Enhanced, so I've been around for about 250 years now, but the others haven't, it’s already been about 10 generations for them since the pirates came.”

*** * * Translators' note: That means the average lifespan of a normal Wau is probably like ... less than 20 -25 years. * * ***

"Oh, I see ... ... so only you know about the statue ... ..."

"There's no actual tale of it coming online before, I thought it was broken and thrown away ... ... I was seriously surprised when it actually reacted, Ahkakaka!"

"So, you were just making things up?"

"Naturally, I'm trusted in the village. There was no way to avoid a panic besides lying about it ... Well, I knew that the statue responded to you, and I figured that might be some kind of transfer gate, so I figured it was worth a try ..."

"What if it hadn't worked!?"

"At that time, we were out of options... so is the GP is going to help us out?"

"You know about the GP? Oh right... of course you do..." Because of the classes.

"Look I made up all that stuff but it's pointless to us now, won't you take Acha so she can at least learn some actual knowledge? Now that everyone here knows about the GP too and the pirates are gone, we can have the next generation go back to learning like normal. There's no need for any of that stuff now, the idol will be gone and the God has rescued the village and is set to return to heaven."

"But Acha is still a young girl ..." Seina was worried about separating Acha from her mother. And the GP would still have to rule on the matter.

"It is not like she won't ever see her again, Tarrant is gone, and we'll be able to communicate with the academy now. I know she will have a better life there."

"Well, that is true ... but ..."

"Acha doesn't want to part with you ... ... Do you not like her?"

"Well, no, but if it were me, I wouldn't want to part with my mother, or Kusuro, or his mother." Seina was saying but Acha burst into tears she looked like a cat that was about to be abandoned.

"But since I met you, I've made new friends... I'm not lonely!"

"Oh, you made friends?"

"Fuku-chan, she's cute and fluffy! And I hear there are other kids at the academy!"

Seina looked at Acha who seemed happy when she said that and decided to take her. In the village, she'd only be treated like a shrine maiden, but she could live like an ordinary child at the academy. The girls would help, and she could make friends her own age. If the result of the investigation of the area ended up with them all getting kicked off the planet, then the new

generation of the village would all end up in space anyways, and the village would be completely different in half a century anyways now that they weren't stuck in hiding.

Lastly, Seina realized something. (Oh, this is like Masaki village.) The village made contact with the universe while it was in the early civilization stage. (If there's a legal problem in taking Acha, I'm sure Seto-sama, Airi, and Mikami, would help... I think they might understand.) It was a nice thought. The Galactic Federation and GP weren't run by monsters. If they were deemed illegal occupants, they would have a grace period of half a century to migrate.

“Okay, I'll keep Acha.” Seina decided.

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Seto got the story of what happened from when he went to find Fuku all the way to when Acha was frozen by D until Kirche got on board ZINV. After that, Seto was able to find out what happened just from the battle data extracted from ZINV, she breathed a big sigh as she got the report from the cabbits.

“But if you could control the nano machines, why didn’t you enter Tarrant's base with ZINV?”

“I was stopped by Ms. Mitsuki.”

“My name isn't Mitsuki, it's Miki!”

“So why did you stop, how was Seina-chan was caught by Tarrant?” Although she had a quiet tone, Kiriko's eyes were angry.

“To stop Kirche from being killed. For me, I don't know anything about her, except that she was the one who got my message to my father.”

“Why couldn't she just upload herself to the network?”

“I had a monitoring device installed. If I accessed the network or any of the equipment, or tried to make any super-spatial communication, my core would have been destroyed.”

“Even if she could have, Fuku wouldn't have been spared.”

“Well ... I guess that's true... sorry for getting mad.” Kiriko apologized. Either way, Seina was saved and the case was settled.

“No, I'm sorry I couldn't protect Seina ... ...” Kirche said.

“But how did you do the data transfer to the clone? Wasn’t there a monitoring device?”

“Dr. Clay did all the work on the data transfer. And the monitoring device was just one used for monitoring a specific super space communication frequency. Tarrant was wary of her directly accessing the network, but Kirche accessed Tarrant's computers and other equipment for

communication through Seina. And they didn't know about the existence of the high-level hyper-spatial region."

"Wait a moment. Kirche didn't know that Miki was in Tarrant's computer. You had one shot to do the transfer. There should have been no time to interact with the transfer destination or anything else."

"As for data transfer, I coordinated it by relaying with ZINV. With Kirche and ZINV, the transfer speed was instantaneous, and I transferred directly to the clones."

"So, you could communicate between Miki and D. What was the exchange between ZINV and Kirche? How could you manage it without that?"

"Kirche and I interacted directly with a high-speed language conversation."

"A direct high-speed language conversation! Indeed, I see how you communicated without being seen but ...." High-speed language was a primitive communication method that was almost never used. Since it was a form of voice communication, it was slow and the amount of information conveyed was small, it was mostly only still used for children's toys. A high-speed language was also what ZINV groaned in, so Kirche's speech was camouflaged.

"But there was no guarantee that Tarrant wouldn't notice that."

"So, we spoke in Japanese."

"Japanese?" That was dangerous, if you didn't know the language being spoken it meant you could easily mistake the communication as just noise.

"Kirche, you know Japanese because you're Seina's NB right, but what about D?"

"There are minor word differences, but they are very similar to the words used by ZINV's previous master."

"So, is that the language of the prehistoric civilization?" Seto who had been silent until that time chimed in.

"Why do you ask that Seto?"

"A surveyor accompanying Seina reported that the ruins were about a billion years old."

"... A billion!?" Everyone was shocked.

"Assuming that what you call the prehistoric civilization is the same as were we came from, ZINV is actually a thing from the previous age."

"Before that? It was before the Great Prehistoric Civilization?"

"ZINV and my original self precede them by tens of thousands of years."

“Woah that's amazing! She's a living witness of super ancient history!” Ryoko instinctively brought herself closer to D.

“Calm down and stay on topic, you can always find out more later. Anyways you were saying Kirche was using high speed communication…”

“Yes. As a result, I understood. The languages are very similar, but even if we could communicate with each other, the standards of measurements aren't always the same. It took quite a long time to actually examine the bandwidth was available in hyperspace ... ...”

“Seina's finger was about to be cut off.”

“Cut off?” As expected, Kiriko was angry.

“Tarrant was trying to make Kirche torture Seina. But I found a common band in the vicinity and D, Kirche and I transferred our data to the clones at the same time.”

“Oh, then it's you guys who started the Kamidake, wasn't it?”

“Linking functions existed immaturely in the clones. There was no capacity to start the Kamidake on our own, but it was possible to do it if two of us cooperated. I also participated in order to make sure it worked.” That was why D wasn't there when Seina came back to the cockpit.

“After we started the Kamidake, we released Fuku from the time freeze. ZINV then teleported Seina to the inside of the cockpit.”

“To be accurate, it moved him by distorting the two points in space. Seina was scanned and if he was in danger ZINV would have left instantly.” They didn't know if Seina was going to keep his finger or not, but his fingers were saved.

“Afterwards you synced with the Kamidake. Who did the restoration work, ZINV or the Kamidake?”

“We cooperated with each other. Especially the restoration of the repair system. That was mostly the Kamidake. After that it was all collaborative work.”

“Well ... well ... well... Washu sure went and made quite a versatile ship.” Seto said with a puzzled face.

“So, how does that work? I know it has something to do with the atmosphere ... ...”

“We form a plane that controls thousands of force fields to generate repairs, parts, and materials, from the air. If there is data, in theory anything can be formed at any place. Of course, it requires enormous amounts of energy and a sophisticated computer that can control it. But if you try to reproduce ordinary things, the formation of the force field and the control system itself become enormously huge burdens and the cost is no better than just rebuilding things manually.”

“Maybe in the distant future it will become common ... ...”

“If you think about it in the GP or the military, it's not really that necessary, is it?”

“Well ... ... That's true.

“Psh ... ... Knowing Seina, we will probably have to use it nonstop.” Miki said with a big sigh.

“Oh no, Ms. Mitsuki, you'll never change, you're still a tsundere!”

“Who are you calling tsundere! And it's not Ms. Mitsuki! It's Miki!”

“Well, let's take a break for a while, I’ve been informed that Seina will be returning home with a lovely new daughter.” Seto said as she got ready for the oncoming ruckus in her mind.

“A cute daughter?!”

“Why is Acha coming with him?!”

“Just go ask him yourself.”

“Hey! Don't go and excuse yourself!” Kiriko and others blew up as Seto showed them out of the room. Fuku was just glad that Seina was coming home already.

“Oh, what's wrong, aren't you coming?” Seto inquired of Miki who remained there.

Miki who remained alone smiled, “Ms. Seto, I'd like to talk with you alone if that's okay?”

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“... ... I see. So, this girl, Acha-chan, she wants you to take her to the Academy?” Acha looked up at Kiriko with eyes like Fuku's. She couldn't say no to those adorable eyes. Everyone was convinced. (Damn it! She's too cute!) Although puzzled, everyone who was there had already fallen to Acha's cuteness. Kiriko was truly cautious, but it was difficult to refuse Acha, even though she wanted to live in an unknown place away from her family.

“Nice to meet you!” She said to Kiriko. That was it... the white flag flew. Kiriko's serious face shattered, and she immediately began thinking about the legal processes necessary for adopting Acha. “Yes. It's nice to meet you too.” Her acceptance was decided when Kiriko gave the OK. Everyone rushed to fawn over Acha just like Seto's officials had.

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“So, what's the deal?” Seto and Miki were talking alone. The room was in a completely blocked off state.

“Did my father decipher the mail I gave to Kirche?”

“... ... Yes.” Seto immediately knew what Miki wanted to say. “Definitely, your father has decrypted the email, and it was me who stopped the attempt to rescue you, are you satisfied with that?”

“Seina got involved, it was really too troublesome, wasn't it? Well, I'm very happy with how things turned out either way ... but I don't know how I feel about all these other people getting involved.” Still Miki smiled, satisfied with Seto's answer.

“There is one favor that I want to ask from you, is that okay?” Miki asked.

“Of course, if I can do it.”

“Well, can you introduce me to Washu Hakubi?”

“.....” Seto thought for a moment, then started the communication monitor.

“Washu-chan, are you there?”

“Hmm? Do you need something?”

“This woman wants to meet you.”

“Ok, I'm on my way.” The next moment she arrived.

“Thank you all for waiting ♡” After acting like she was introducing herself in a stage play, Washu appeared through a long-distance transfer gate. Which by chance was hidden behind the door there.

“.....” Miki wasn't expecting this to be taken so lightly. It was amazing just to meet with the legendary philosopher, Washu Hakubi. She expected to have to wait months, years even...

“... Well, what's up!?”

“Hahaha, well time is money, so let's get to it, this is Miki Steinbeck.”

“... ... Huh. Actually, I wanted to give you this information.” Seto looked at the data presented by Miki, and then looked towards Washu. Both of them seemed to have expected Miki's proposed content.

“I found it in Tarrant's highest memory area. I couldn't confirm whether there was a backup, but I quarantined it. I let Clay see it too.”

“Ahahahaha ...” Seto began to laugh. It was the same reaction as Doctor Clay.

“Ho ho ... ... It seems that there is no mistake, well done. This deserves a thank you, so what is your wish?”

“Would you mind using my father, Washu-san as your external apprentice, starting at the end of the semester?”

“But Hiroshi, is at Airi's workshop now. He's an apprentice to Airi herself. I suppose I could take a new student if that's what you want...”

“Is that so!? I didn't know that.”

“Well, that might be the case now, but you never know the future. I don't mind either, so please tell me once you decide... but while we’re here ...” Washu took out the ball type personal scanner, “Mini-Mamoru-kun”, from her bosom and put it on the head of the Miki clone.

“Miau?”

“I'd like to investigate to what extent Fuku was cloned. Please cooperate, this will only take a moment.”

It had already been checked in Seto's medical room, but Washu was able to diagnose things with a higher level of sophistication. And in a few minutes “Mini-Mamoru-kun” displayed the data.

“Well, there's no funny business going on, it seems they just cloned Fuku in the usual textbook way, it's just a normal living organism.”

“Just a moment please! What are you talking about?”

“Even if you're a clone, it's impossible to copy Fuku exactly. Even if you do some retroactive remodeling.”

“... ... Hah. Dr. Clay said something similar. You are similar philosophers, aren't you?”

Normally Washu disliked being compared to him, but she seemed not to care.

“Uhuhuh, well doing things halfway is the biggest taboo for philosophers, so in that sense, every philosopher is the same. Miki, do you want to be in this body for the rest of your life?”

“Eh? I was planning to move to another body...”

“Hm ... ... Sorry, but that's going to be difficult, even if you move the data in that brain, you'll end up having different memories with the same astral. If you want to keep the same memory as Miki, you're going to have to remains as is. Even if someone tried to transplant you, it would be necessary to remodel the brain and nervous systems to restore you to a humanoid body, and the remodel will have to happen to your astral form too.”

“So, I have to stay like this for the rest of my life ...?” Miki was shocked.

“It's pretty cute though.”

“Yes, but I want to return to the original body! ... ... I want to be with Seina ...”

“Washu-chan, quit teasing her.” Seto said.

“What! Are you fooling me?” Miki glared at Washu.

“I wasn't lying, I was just explaining the risk of Miki moving to another body.” The picture that Washu showed was that of Ryo-Ohki. There was Ryo-Ohki transforming from human form to Cabbit form and back.

“This is ... Fuku-chan, isn't it?”

“Fuku's older sister, Ryo-Ohki.”

“She can turn into a human?”

“How about it, I can strengthen your body to Fuku levels, and you can change into Miki Steinbeck at will. Of course, your memories and astral will stay the same and you will have all the functions of a women! You can even give birth ♡.” Washu smiled.

“Oh!! Well ... ...” Miki was staring at the picture of Ryo-Ohki.

“It's within the scope of your reward for helping save Fuku and if you like you can keep thinking about what you want for that data.”

Chapter Ten: Reunion's Dilemma

“Ah ah ah ah ah ah, what should I do!” Miki's father, Hiroshi, was in a large space harbor used by the Galactic Federation secretariat headquarters in the Academy's outer ring, in the top floor area of the central building, a room that was strictly guarded.

With him was Tennyo, Hakuryo, Raireza, and Airi's studio staff members.

“Why don't you calm down a little?”

“No, no, no, I don't even know what kind of face I should make when I meet with Miki, I don't even know how to explain things to her.”

“I don't know the feeling ... but, Miki knows that she's a Pinocchio. Judging from the report she seems to be pretty calm mentally speaking, and she's probably just glad to be home safely.”

“Is that so?”

“Yeah.” Raireza responded nicely.

He settled down for a bit then, “No, it's useless! I'm scared! I can't do this by myself! Raireza, you have to join me, I’ll introduce you to her ... will you come?” Hiroshi began to panic again.

Raireza looked at Hiroshi with an embarrassed face and the other researchers, especially the women, looked away and wrinkled around the eyebrows as they made strange faces.

Tennyo stood up and came up to Hiroshi. “Hiroshi! I was going to sit back and remain quiet, but you've made that impossible. Your daughter is coming home after literally losing her entire body. Now is not the time to be shaking things up and you know it!”

“Ah ... yes, you’re right!” Hiroshi said, quickly sitting up.

“The only thing your daughter knows for sure right now is that you're her father, that's it. If you welcome her back by suddenly introducing a woman other than her mother, she will hate her forever and will never forgive you!” Tennyo said.

All the women on the spot cheerfully joined in at the same time. “Yeah!”

Hiroshi looked at Raireza who was blushing to confirm that what Tennyo said was true.

“Well ... I also agree, I think that Miki should know the truth and you should wait until she accepts it. She's been through a lot and needs to get used to things being normal again.”

“Oh, well ... but I'm afraid of Miki.”

“It's ok to rely on someone if you're afraid. But as for me, I'd like to build a good relationship with her, so good luck finding someone.”

“Well, I guess I understand that.” Hiroshi finally decided on what to do.

“Even so, you should take your time.” Hakuryo, who had been far from the conversation, looked at the door with a relieved expression.

“With the handling of the Kamidake, the military scandal, and ZINV ... ... It may take a while to see her anyways.”

“If that is the case, I think I'll just call her after things settle. There are quite a few projects I want to work on, but I can't while we're quarantined here.”

“Please be patient, they're doing their best to process everything as fast as they can.”

Apart from Tennyo, all of those involved in this incident were summoned to the Galactic Federation's high court as witnesses and experts, to explain the detailed circumstances of what happened. They were quarantined and had no outside communications access. That's why they weren't able to work on anything.

“The only good thing is that the meals are luxurious, you can drink all you want and eat sweets and drink booze. I feel like a VIP” The drink bar to the side of them had luxury spirits and confections.

Hakuryo breathed a small sigh and then...

“Thank you for waiting. We've started preparing for you to be transferred.” Airi said on a monitor before disappearing quickly

“Yay! We're saved!” Everyone got up at once and ate some of the sweets and pocketed the rest while downing what drinks they could before they left the room.

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They were preparing to transport the Kamidake and ZINV at Airi's command into a highly confidential dock that stored and maintained flagships and VIP ships in the innermost section of the harbor. The Kamidake and ZINV were naturally contained in large containers. Furthermore,

materials brought back from Tarrant's base and the ruins were being checked in at the entrance, one by one, inside of dozens of super-large containers that were strictly monitored.

“I was ready to be kept waiting, but this was over way earlier than I thought it would be.”

“Well, you see, there was a big dispute over the ownership of various things involved with this case, but Washu-san came in and cleared things up.”

“Wow! She went before the members of the Federation? That must have been a lot of trouble ... ...”

It must have caused a panic.

“There have been rumors of her survival for a long time, and that she made the Kamidake. So on some level they must've been prepared, but still, we’re lucky that no one collapsed from the shock.”

“I'm kind of disappointed that no one did.” If they had, it would have only extended the proceedings.

“Washu was officially acknowledged as the creator of the Kamidake, you can't deny it when it comes from the horses’ mouth. Of course, that means its owner is Seina, but as a personal possession it's too powerful and they have to work out how to publish the investigation of the Kamidake and who is owed compensation.”

“Is it even okay to do such a thing!?” The Kamidake was Washu's best masterpiece. It was a top-secret mega bundle of technology.

“The only data that would be published would be what was discovered about it when it was investigated, which is mostly just black box data, and at worst the location of the central residential area and the bridge's position.”

“That's still pretty secret.”

“Hahaha! They're probably terrified of Washu seeking revenge if they mishandle the situation, so I'm sure things will go smoothly. Fuku is the only thing really new to the thing anyways. Washu is a philosopher so obviously it uses technology that already exists, I would assume.”

Even trying to investigate Fuku was illegal, she had human rights, so she wasn't included in the investigation.

“Certainly ... The matter of kidnapping Fuku-chan was an act of illegal behind the scenes trading with Tarrant. Those who wanted to investigate the Kamidake will just have to be satisfied with only learning some minor innovative techniques it uses.”

“Since Washu has the patents on the thing, they can't replicate it anyway. At best they will have to come up with alternatives. They asked to buy one off of her and the invoice she gave them was hysterical.”

“How much was it?”

“A major country's army budget for ten years, plus money to do maintenance on it every year, and about a third of that combined figure just for the transfer.”

“What, really?”

“There were some people who seriously thought about it. But for a single ship, it just wasn't worth it, so instead they started arguing over why Seina even needed it anymore.”

“Because he has ZINV now?”

“Seina didn't discover it, but it's AI guarantees it the same human rights as Fuku-chan, and it sees Seina as its master. But it’s older than the prehistoric civilization and technically is a cultural heritage item, and then they got into what to do with the schematics for the Daedalus that they found there.”

“What!” Tennyo unexpectedly raised her voice, and then quickly restrained herself.

“... ... I see. That's much more important than getting the Kamidake.” They could mass produce the Daedalus. For a philosopher it would be easy to make a ship better than the Daedalus. But making it mass producible at low cost without lowering its performance was the hard part.

“How is Seina being handled?”

“Because it was a military scandal, obviously he's in no trouble. The Kamidake was stolen by Space pirates, and they kidnapped Fuku-chan. Seina merely tracked down and identified their base, and he cooperated with the military to destroy the base and the Daedalus. He should get a medal for that alone.”

“But what about the issue of invading disputed territory!?”

“Well, that was solved by the presence of D and ZINV. D's AI has an astral, so it has human rights, and while it hasn't been revealed yet, ZINV is the same thing as a Royal Tree, so it too has human rights.”

“Ah! Then those two count as indigenous people and they have interplanetary navigation capability ...”

In other words, the planet that was in a non-invasive zone belonged legally to ZINV and D if they chose to assert their territorial rights, they would have priority. Moreover, because they had interplanetary navigation capabilities, it was highly probable that the entire solar system would be recognized as being within the scope of their property. The creation of a micro black hole and

their offense against Tarrant's fleet proved they had sufficient deterrence power, which also meant that it could be declared an independent country, and if D and ZINV decided Seina was that countries master, Seina would technically have been defending his own country, so to speak.

“It's impossible to illegally invade to your own house.”

“... Wow ... … so Seina, could create his own country over there!”

“Well, in the case of your girl, things are even more amazing,” Airi muttered like she was giving a soliloquy.

“What?” Hiroshi broke off his conversation with Tennyo and went with Airi to another room in the building, and before his eyes the Miki clone stood face to face with Hiroshi.

“Miki ... ...?”

“Miau”

“.....” Despite being informed in advance, Hiroshi's mind had trouble understanding the cabbit as his daughter. Still, he took Tennyo and Raireza's advice, and took a big deep breath and calmed his mind. “You promised me you'd come home more often than this.” Hiroshi said, then he came close to Miki and gently embraced her.

“Miao ... . Mia aaaaaaaaaaaaa!” Miki was finally home. She clung to Hiroshi and began to cry. He was reminded of all the times in the past that he had comforted her as she cried about her mother ... and how it was a fictitious mother. Now, he had to tell Miki the truth. When he thought about her reaction, he was glad that the girls didn't let him introduce Raireza to Miki right away.

“I'm sorry.” Hiroshi began crying as he pet Miki's head.

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Miki stopped crying, but Hiroshi still kept stroking her head.

“... ... Mya” The Miki clone calmed down, as expected she was ashamed of being stuck this state. She looked up to him and said, “That's enough.”

“Oh, I'm sorry, but you're so cute and fluffy now ... ...” He picked up the Miki clone and checked its sex with a quick glance.

“Oh, that's good, you're still a girl, right?”

The Miki clone took out her nails and scratched him across the face. His screams could be heard outside of the room.

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“That ... ... That's what I think it is right?” In a dark room Hakuren and her group were gathered to talk.

“Yeah, that figure, that power ... that's the closest thing to what's described in our legends that's been discovered so far.”

“The two pillars that were the first grandfathers. The one pillar that was left behind. It's finally appeared.”

“What will we do?”

“Wait. We haven't confirmed anything just yet.”

“Did you see the power that it showed when it linked with the Kamidake? That's at least a second generation ... it's at least what we need.”

“... Hey, are you thinking about taking it home with us?”

“Suiren?”

“You aren't going to regret it are you? This is the important thing for us all right?”

Everyone looked at each other's face in response to Suiren's comment.

“.....”

Afterword: Concluding Theater Part 10

It's been a while, everyone. I'm Miki Steinbeck, the true heroine of Seina-kun.

I was forced to leave in the middle of the story because of that perverted piece of shit, and I almost left for good, but the fact that the reason I was able to avoid dying was because of my troubled father makes me feel really complicated. Well, I guess I'll have to find out the secret of my birth and what happened to me in the past but considering the fact that he kept it a secret when he created an astral AI, I'm sure my father would have no good reason for it anyway. Anyway, let's be thankful that we survived the crisis.

A lot had happened since I had been moved from that lovely body to the main computer at the shitty Tarrant base. I helped the people who had been forced to cooperate with the pervert to escape, I probed the pervert's secrets, and I worked hard to collect the compensation... well, I was busy enough, but I think I was more uncomfortable in the cave of the pervert and his friends. It would have been better if I could have followed those who escaped, but I had no choice but to stay behind because I couldn't move no matter how many times I copied my astral. I was lucky enough to have a touching reunion with Seina and to see the end of that pervert. I wish that ZINV and D had woken up and helped me, but in the end, everything turned out all right.

Now, I had to move to Fuku-chan's clone body to escape from the main computer of the pervert's base. I can't tell you how wonderful it is to be able to move freely. The sensation of having my perceptions massively inflated by the large computer-connected terminals was certainly wonderful, but the information coming from them about those perverts wasn't even remotely useful and made me feel uncomfortable. Anyway, I'm considering partial memory erasure.

I was shocked when Washu told me that it was impossible to change from a clone to a human body, but I was really relieved when she told me that it is possible to transform a clone into a full human being and even give birth to a child. At the same time, I was honestly happy to hear that I could maintain my beast form.

I actually like this beast form because it is quite fun!

First of all, this body is small, and its eyesight is low, so it's interesting to feel as if you've wandered into the land of giants. It's like an athletic attraction. The houseplants are giant trees, the kitchen sink is a swimming pool, and the sofa is a giant bed or trampoline. Even a small cushion becomes a king-sized bed. It's really nothing but a small space that becomes an interesting space.

And the best part is that it's so liberating, you don't need any constricting underwear or clothes, and no makeup. You can lie down on the floor and take a nap without being scolded or thought of as sloppy. If you make a little "miaa" sound, the other person will relax their cheeks and smile. Ah, the wonderful beast form!

Of course, once I'm able to revert to my human form, I plan to dress up and go on a date with Seina. There are so many other things I want to do. Anyway, I have to make up for the gap between me and Seina, and Kiriko and the others, which was created by that piece of shit pervert.